MILF accuses gov't of breaking ceasefire

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

MONDAY, JULY 2, 2001 ★★ 82 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 204 P15

Ador dares Ping: Take lie detector test

By Cathy Cañares and Christian V. Esguerra

A FORMER civilian agent, who accused Panfilo "Ping" Lacson of masterminding a destabilization plot against the Macapagal administration, last night challenged the senator-elect and his protégés to undergo a lie detector test to determine who was telling the truth.

The agent, identified only as Ador, a con-

ADOR/ A20

WHAT'S INSIDE

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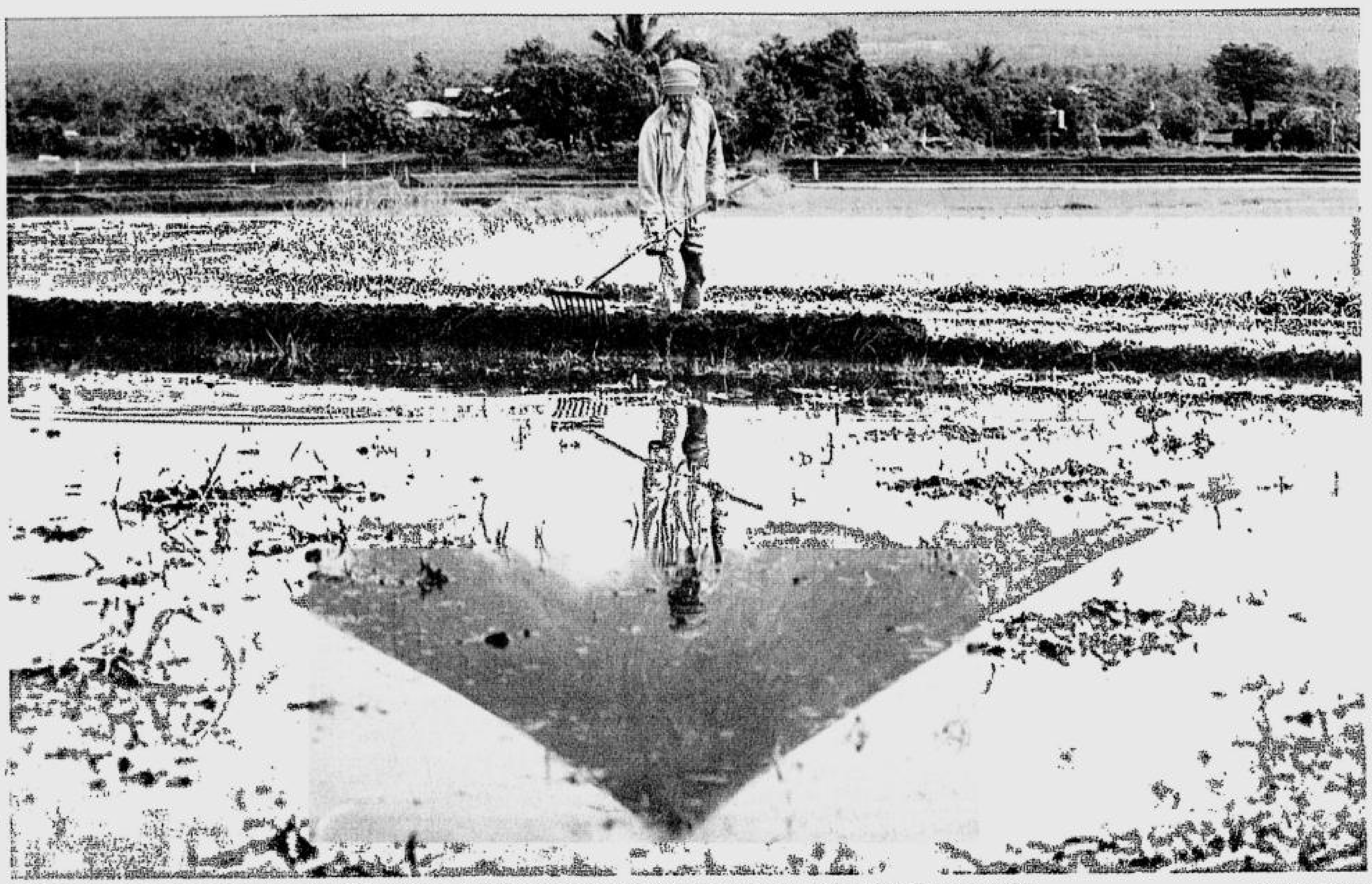
Gas, kerosene prices up



WITH the threat of a stronger Mayon explosion looming over him, a farmer exploits the lull by working in his ricefield in Legazpi City. EDWIN BACASMAS

Pilipinas Shell fuel now costs 37 centavos more

By Ronnel W. Domingo

IN MAY, it was Caltex Philippines Inc. Now, it's Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.

Pilipinas Shell yesterday raised the prices of its fuel products by an average of 37 centavos per liter, signaling the start of another round of price increases by the local oil industry.

Reynaldo Gamboa, Pilipinas Shell vice president for corporate affairs, cited the weakening of the Philippine peso against the US dollar as the "main factor" behind the firm's decision to raise prices.

It was the second time this year that Pilipinas Shell raised its prices. The first time was on May 24 when Shell followed the lead of Caltex by jacking up its prices by an average of 43-48 centavos.

Gamboa said the new prices were based on an exchange rate of P52.33 to the dollar and an average crude price of $25.70 per barrel in the world market.

With the 37-centavo increase, Pilipinas Shell's wholesale posted prices to dealers will now be P18.61/liter for premium gasoline; P18.10 for unleaded gasoline; P17.13 for regular gasoline; P14.36 for diesel; and P13.93 for kerosene.

Motorists and other consumers, however, will be paying more. Pump prices at Pilipinas Shell stations will now cost P19.40/liter for high-octane premium gasoline (Velocity); P19 for premium gasoline; P18.49 for unleaded gasoline; P14.75 for diesel; and P14.32 for kerosene.

Gamboa said the price adjustment was much lower than the increase of 60-70 centavos anticipated by the Consumer and Oil Price Watch.

"This is in deference to Energy Secretary Vincent S. Perez's call for smaller but more frequent price changes in deference to the socio-political environments," Gamboa said.

The so-called "Big Three"—Pilipinas Shell, Caltex and Petron Corp.—rolled back their prices by 50 centavos in January after raising them 19 times during the Estrada administration.

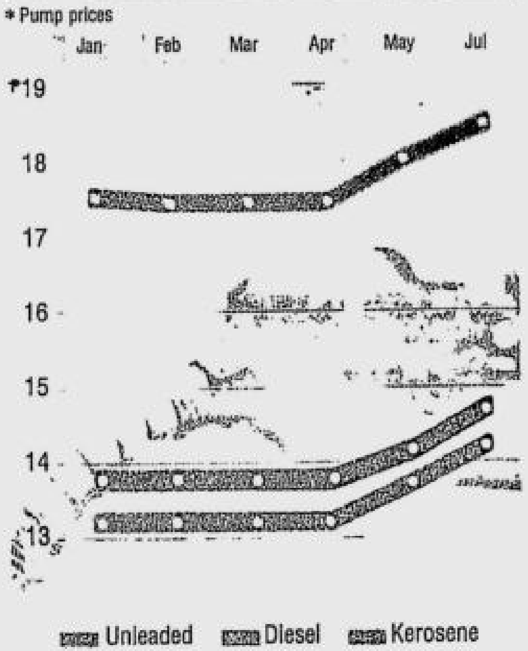
"Shell is hoping that the current crude oil price and peso-dollar rate stabilize so that the present pump prices hold in the coming weeks," Gamboa said.

GAS/ A19

FAST FACTS

	Old	New*	⬆
Unleaded	18.10	18.49	0.39
Diesel	14.46	14.75	0.29
Kerosene	13.08	14.32	0.37

*Pump prices



INQGRAPHIC: ESambo

Bigger Mayon blast expected anytime now

By Rey Nasol
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—A bigger explosion of the Mayon Volcano is expected this week, according to Ed Laguerta, resident volcanologist of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

"Anytime within the next few days, we might experience a very big explosion," said Paul Alanis, spokesperson of Phivolcs. "Its top is still smoking right now in an apparent state of quiet."

The relative calm since Friday could indicate that Mayon was building up pressure from within, Alanis said.

But the growing number of volcanic quakes and abrupt increase in sulfur dioxide emission, accompanied by the further inflation of the volcano's edifice, may indicate another explosive eruption.

The eruption could further disfigure Mayon's beautiful cone.

The increasing volcanic quakes and rising magma slightly contorted the side of the 2,460-meter volcano.

A wall of volcanic rock splintered off, ruining Mayon's famous symmetry, Laguerta said.

It also endangers scientists monitoring the site.

Mayon intermittently discharged lava fragments and produced a big volume of sulfur dioxide of up to 8,720 tons per day.

The electronic distance meters and tilt-meters of Phivolcs showed further ground deformation and slight inflation of the volcanic cone.

Laguerta said the sporadic lava discharge, high sulfur dioxide emission rate, occurrence of tremors and volcanic quakes and inflated state of the volcano's edifice indicated a slow magma ascent possibly related to post-eruption recharging.

He further said the high sulfur dioxide outputs might reflect the open state of the

BIGGER/ A20

KAYA PALA ANG AGA MO PUMASOK, HA?!!

Saucy Italians work harder when flirting, poll shows

ROME—Italians may give the impression of putting more effort into their love life than their work, but now they appear to be doing a bit of both.

Four in 10 office workers admitted to having "affectionate relations" in the workplace according to a new survey, and 56 percent said office romances also made them more productive.

The findings are part of a poll of 2,500 employees at 50 companies nationwide, which was conducted by the Women and Quality of Life (Donne e qualita' della vita) association.

The more intense the affair, the busier the worker.

Nearly eight in 10 of those who said they had been involved in a sexual relationship with someone at work said

SAUCY/ A19

New witness attests to 'Kuratong' rubout

By Carlito Pablo

AFTER more than six years, a new witness has broken his silence over the killing of 11 suspected members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang in Quezon City, a case which continues to haunt now Senator-elect Panfilo Lacson.

SPO2 Noel Seno, formerly assigned to the Operations Unit-Task Force Limbas of the Traffic Management Group (TMG), executed a five-page statement before lawyers of the Department of Justice that the fatalities did not die a shootout on May 18, 1995.

He said the police summarily executed the suspected bank robbers.

A copy of Seno's sworn statement was provided by Arno Sanidad, counsel for witnesses in the multiple murder charges that the DOJ filed with the Quezon City Regional Trial Court against Lacson and 34 police officers, personnel and civilian assets.

Seno is now assigned to the Cebu-based Special Task Group of the Philippine National Police.

He said that on the night of May 17, 1995, he was among the TMG men who were deployed as blocking force at the Superville Subdivision in Sucat, Parañaque, where the safehouse of the Kuratong Baleleng was located.

The safehouse was raided on the same night by a composite police force from the TMG, the Criminal Investigation Service (CIS), Special Action Force (SAF), Central Police District and the now defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC), whose Task Force Habagat was commanded by Lacson.

The PACC led the operation.

NEW/ A20

SC strikes middle ground in ruling on trial coverage

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

IN THE turbulent setting of Philippine politics dancing on the edge of anarchic, populist democracy, the press has become a center of newsmaking as much as a transmission belt of politically relevant information.

Press personalities, as well as press reports and opinions, have become key players on the political stage, competing for public attention with politicians, entertainment celebrities and members of the Philippine elite.

It is in this context that the Supreme Court handed down a ruling last week turning down live television and radio coverage of the trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada on charges of plunder and perjury.

In this essay, I prefer to use the term "press" rather than "media" for the collective category embracing newspapers, TV and radio. The term excludes the entertainment medium and nar-

SC/ A20

3 American hostages still alive–MILF

By Julie Alipala-Inot
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—Ground commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front assigned to "monitor" the condition of the remaining hostages of the Abu Sayyaf reported a week ago that American captive Guillermo Sobero was still alive, according to MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

He made the claim as the anxious father of 14-year-old hostage Lalaine Chua reportedly waited in this city to make sure that he would be there to meet his daughter, who at press time was expected to be released by today.

Based on the MILF commanders' field reports, "*lumalabas na mabuti naman ang kalagayan ng mga hostages* (it appears that the hostages are in good condition), especially the three Americans," Kabalu told a local broadcast journalist in an off-the-air interview.

Asked to confirm whether he meant three and not two Americans from the group of hostages abducted from Dos Palmas resort in Palawan, Kabalu repeated the statement word for word, although he did not name Sobero and American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham.

Sought for further confirmation last night, Kabalu told the INQUIRER that the reports from the field, received last week, showed that Sobero was alive.

3 AMERICAN/ A19

Second FRONT PAGE

BAKA MAKASAMA
YAN SA PEACE TALKS!
SAYANG NAMAN!!

‘Friendly fire’ kills 2 soldiers, hurts 5

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two Army soldiers were killed and five others were wounded when a machine gun was accidentally fired at a convoy of trucks carrying troops, police said yesterday.

The soldiers were returning to the Army base in Jolo Saturday when the accident occurred, Sulu provincial police chief Supt. Candido Casimiro said.

“Two soldiers were killed instantly from the accident and five had been wounded and rushed to hospital,” he said.

An investigation showed the machine gun went off after the driver of an armored vehicle accidentally squeezed the trigger when one of the military trucks made an abrupt stop.

Casimiro said the soldiers had just returned from patrolling Jolo’s hinterland areas for Abu Sayyaf bandits to prevent them from reinforcing their comrades in nearby Basilan island.

An Abu Sayyaf faction in Basilan is holding about 23 US and Filipino hostages. *AFP*

MILF accuses gov’t of breaking ceasefire

Military allegedly shelled MILF camps in Basilan

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Government troops yesterday broke a ceasefire with a Muslim rebel group accused of sheltering Abu Sayyaf kidnappers and shelled their camps, rebel sources said.

Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) regional leader Shariff Julabbi said their strongholds near Tuburan town on the island of Basilan were attacked early Sunday by soldiers without provocation, triggering a firefight.

“The military assaulted our position. Soldiers shelled our area with 105 mm Howitzer cannons,” Julabbi said. “Our forces retaliated with anti-tank rockets . . . to defend the MILF area.”

There were no immediate reports of casualties on either side.

The MILF is the country’s main Muslim insurgent group waging a 23-year rebellion for an independent Islamic state in the south.

The government and the MILF two weeks ago signed a landmark truce in the Libyan capital of Tripoli, and peace talks have continued to reach a political settlement to end the rebellion.

The military has accused MILF members in Basilan of helping Abu Sayyaf rebels holding 23 American and Filipino captives to escape from a massive military manhunt, a claim denied by the MILF.

“What we know is that there have been ongoing operations against the Abu Sayyaf, but the MILF is not the Abu Sayyaf,” Julabbi said.

Military officials have asked MILF rebels in Basilan to keep out of the way as 5,000 soldiers scour the island’s rugged jungle terrain to search for the hostages.

Southern command spokesperson Lt. Col. Danilo Servando said troops were under instructions now to engage any suspicious groups bearing firearms, including the MILF.

It was not immediately clear how this would affect the peace talks.

The MILF has said it does not share ideological links with the Abu Sayyaf, a smaller group of a few hundred self-style Islamic freedom fighters, described by Manila as plain bandits and terrorists.

The Abu Sayyaf snatched 17 Filipino and three American hostages from a resort in the western Philippines on May 27. Eleven of them have been freed or rescued, while the rebels have beheaded two and claimed to have also executed American Guillermo Sobero.

They also snatched in two Basilan raids four hospital staff and 15 plantation workers, two of whom were found beheaded last week.

Abu Sayyaf spokesperson have reportedly asked for a million dollars each for Christian missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, from Kansas. *AFP*

ERRATUM

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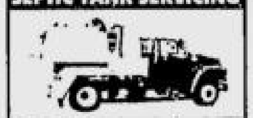

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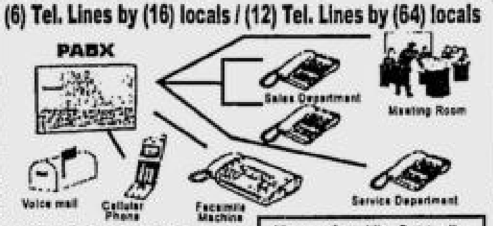

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IMF lauds RP move vs 'dirty money'

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund has lauded the Philippine government for pressing on with planned legislation to crack down on money launderers, an official said yesterday.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the positive news came during a discussion between an IMF visiting team and senior finance officials in Manila.

"They were quite h'appy to hear that it has become a Philippine effort" to fight money laundering, Buenaventura said. "They were quite pleased with this development."

BUENAVENTURA

The IMF backing came after the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a group set by industrialized nations to counter money laundering in 1999, included the Philippines in a list of 17 countries who were not doing enough to curb the problem.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has assured the FATF her government will ask Congress to speed up passage of a bill that would clamp down on money laundering. The central bank, meanwhile, has said it would amend banking laws to allow officials to pry into suspect accounts.

Central bank legal counsel Juan de Zuniga said that under the proposed legislation, money launderers can be sentenced up to 10 years in prison as well as given punitive fines. *AFP*

Filipinos among 19 people held in Dubai for 'spying'

DUBAI—Eight Britons are among 19 people arrested in the United Arab Emirates in connection with possession of illegal surveillance equipment, a British Embassy spokeswoman said Sunday.

She confirmed local press reports that the arrests came during raids Tuesday on three companies in Abu Dhabi and Dubai in connection with their corporate investigation and research activities in the country.

The local Gulf News quoted an ICR official as saying that those arrested included staff from Britain, the Philippines, Morocco, Jordan and Yemen.

Those arrested have not yet been charged but have been treated well, the spokeswoman said. She added that the embassy will ensure the Britons receive proper legal representation.

An official in the public prosecutor's office confirmed there have been arrests in relation to illegal gathering of information on companies working in the country. The official would provide no details regarding nationalities, charges or the number arrested.

The Britons, seven men and one woman, received their first consular visit Sunday, she said.

The three companies are SSS Corporate Research, Leisure International and Middle East Research Group, the spokeswoman said.

Both SSS Corporate Research and Leisure International are subsidiaries of International Corporate Research and have offices in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, according to the company's web site.

Britain's The Sunday Times quoted Neil Tunstall, operations director of ICR, as saying the company has "legitimate business in the Emirates and does not use surveillance equipment."

ICR provides information on companies, markets and competition in the region and performs "commercial investigations (that) range from discreet due diligence inquiries to intellectual property right enforcement investigations."

No one could be reached by telephone Sunday at the companies' offices in the United Arab Emirates. The duty officer at ICR's headquarters in Cyprus would not comment. *AP*

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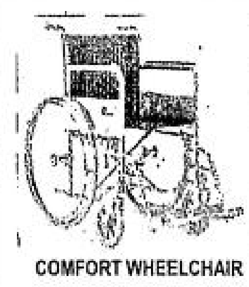
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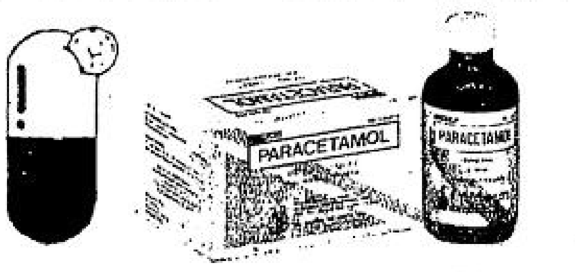
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Comelec resumes continuing list-up of new voters today

By G. Lacuarta

AFTER the registration debacle before last May's polls when millions of first-time voters failed to list up, the Commission on Elections is reminding new voters to register early.

Today the Comelec resumes the continuing registration of new voters in time for the barangay elections on May 13, 2002.

The Comelec drew flak last year after an estimated four million new voters failed to register because of the lack of information from the poll body.

Velma Cinco, Comelec director for information and education, said this year will be different.

She said Filipinos who are 18 by May 13, 2002 may register starting today with the election officer in their towns and cities.

Registration will go on daily during regular office hours up to 120 days before the 2002 polls.

Republic Act 8189, or the Voters Registration Act of 1996, lists the requirements for registration as Filipino citizenship, at least 18 years of age, Philippine resident for at least one year, and resident of the place where they intend to vote for six months.

Approved registrants will be added to the Comelec's computerized list of some 35 million voters.

"Those who failed to register before the last elections now have the chance to register and be counted in 2002 and future elections," Cinco said.

To register, one must go to the election officer in his locality and present any of the following for identification: a birth certificate, driver's license, school, work or postal ID, passport or any other authentic document except a barangay certification or community tax certificate.

Cinco said that those who had registered after June 30, 1997 under the system of continuing registration need not register again.

Cinco advised those who did not vote in two successive preceding elections to check with their election officers to see if they have been deactivated from the voters rolls.

A voter who has been deactivated may file a petition for reactivation with the election officers, she said. *With Norman Bordadora*

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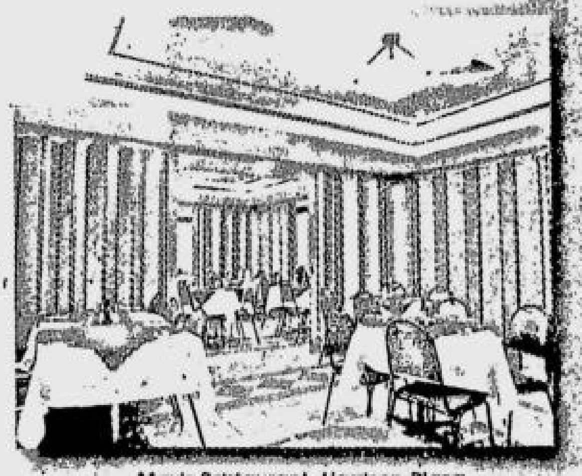
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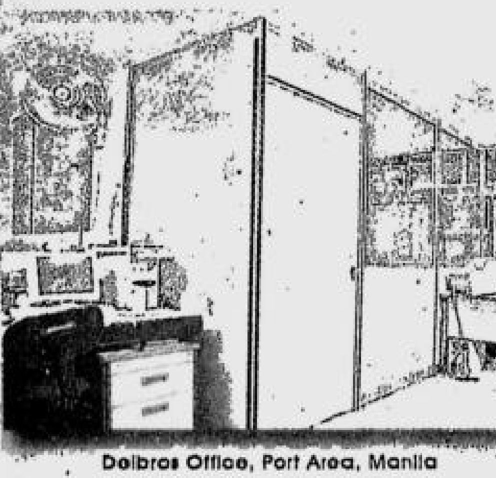
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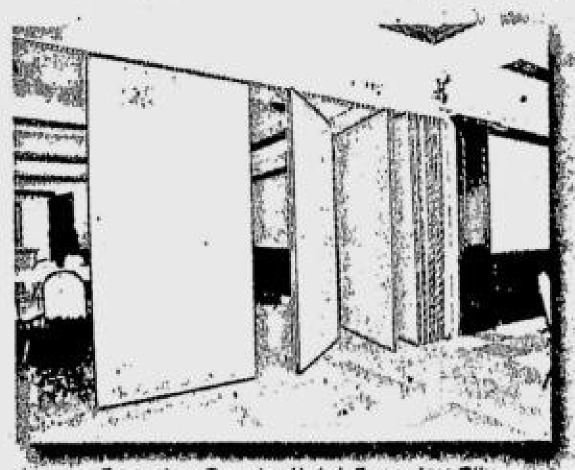
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'MILLIONAIRE' GOV'T EXECS

Solon asks: How about 'the fat cats in boardrooms'?

MALACAÑANG should not only review the fat salaries of officers of government-owned and -controlled corporations and government financial institutions (GFIs) but also the pay packages of members of their boards, Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri yesterday said.

In a statement, Zubiri said that while the salaries and allowances of the "working officers" of the GOCCs and GFIs had been brought to light, "it seems that the remuneration board members of these agencies are getting have escaped official scrutiny."

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered top executives of the GOCCs and GFIs to cut their multimillion-peso salaries and benefits as part of the austerity measures of the government.

The President warned that she would fire those resisting her order.

Zubiri said "working officers" of GFIs and GOCCs were managing the government's multibillion-peso exposure in these agencies and sustaining their profitability.

"If the pay of the officers of these agencies will be subjected to readjustment, so must those of the members of their respective boards," he said.

"We can even say that it would be unfair to the officers of government corporations if they would suffer a pay cut, but the fat cats in boardrooms would not," he said.

While a great majority of board members of GFIs and GOCCs are "competent and capable," some were named to their posts through connections, according to Zubiri.

He also asked the Palace to verify if "sub-Cabinet-level officials" named proxies by their principals in the boards of GFIs and GOCCs were complying with the limits set by law on the allowances that they were getting for attending board meetings.

"Double compensation is not allowed by the Constitution. But there are creative ways of going around this prohibition. These, the Palace must find out," Zubiri said.

Live coverage of Estrada trial pushed

By Christine Avendano

TWO senators said yesterday they support moves to ask the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision banning live coverage of the trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Senators Renato Cayetano and Franklin Drilon, both lawyers who figured prominently in Estrada's aborted impeachment trial, said there is a good chance the high court would reconsider its ruling given the "very close" 8-6 vote banning live coverage.

"I believe it will do our judicial system good to expose the trial on radio and TV," Drilon said in a phone interview.

The senator said he did not subscribe to the high court's view that allowing live coverage might influence the justices' decisions in Estrada's trial on plunder, perjury, graft and other charges.

Drilon, justice secretary in the Aquino administration, said the justices are supposed to decide the case on their appreciation of the evidence presented, and not on what the viewing or listening public might think.

Drilon said live coverage would also force prosecution and defense lawyers to prepare their cases well, in the same way it did during Estrada's impeachment trial.

Cayetano said he was "disappointed" with the ruling, adding he had written the high court before Congress adjourned last month to allow live coverage of the trial.

He said he re-filed last Saturday a bill authored by the late Sen. Marcelo Fernan, which calls for live media coverage of trials.

As a compromise to the question of whether to allow live coverage of the Estrada trial, the Concerned Lawyers for Moral and Effective Leadership (Clamor) proposed that "only highlights of the trial be released for television broadcast."

In a press release, the lawyers' group suggested the Sandiganbayan designate a court officer to determine what video excerpts would be shown to the public on a delayed telecast.

Clamor pointed out its proposal would also mean there will be a master video recording of the entire proceedings that could serve as future reference.

"In case of any controversy during the trial, the master video could also be referred to," Clamor said.

Clamor also suggested that "live full radio coverage be allowed in lieu of live TV coverage."

"I think live radio coverage is a reasonable request since radio precludes dramatics and grandstanding," said Clamor head Dennis Funa.

Ex-gov: Politics behind rape rap

A FORMER provincial governor branded yesterday as politically motivated the attempted rape case filed against him recently by a former employee in the provincial capitol.

Ex-Surigao del Norte Gov. Francisco T. Matugas said the timing of the complaint filed before the Pasay City prosecutor's office was highly suspicious as it alluded to an incident that allegedly occurred nearly six years ago.

Matugas said the incident was alleged to have happened between July 22-28, 1995, but the complaint was filed only on May 10 this year, or three days before the May 14 elections in which he ran for congressman against Rep. Robert Ace Barbers in his province's second district.

Lawyer Cecil M. Fojas called the charges against his client "outrageous lies and highly fabricated."

In a counter-affidavit, Matugas accused his political opponents of using the attempted rape case to malign him during the final stages of the last election campaign, citing the continuous airing of the news over radio and the mushrooming of posters attacking his reputation.

He said the complaint was obviously filed in response to the disqualification case that his brother, engineer Ernesto Matugas, LDP gubernatorial aspirant, had filed against Lakas gubernatorial bet Lyndon Barbers, brother of Representative Barbers.

Describing the complainant's allegations as fabricated, Matugas said he was never at the Heritage Hotel in Pasay City during the time the rape attempt was alleged to have taken place.

The Heritage Hotel attested to the fact that Matugas was not a guest between July 22 and 28, 1995.

The governor said he could account for his whereabouts during the period with supporting documents and eyewitnesses.

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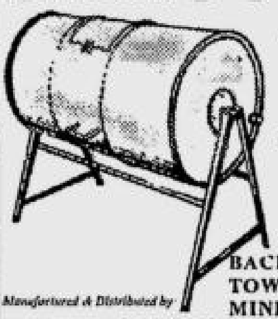

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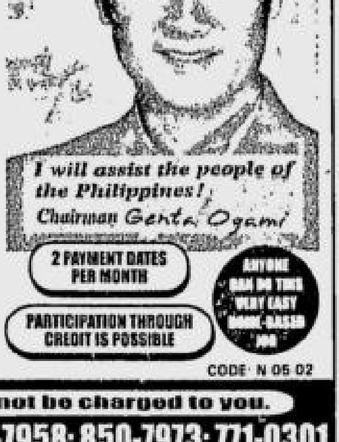

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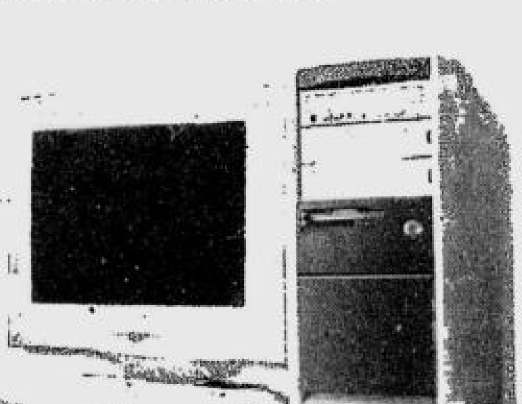

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Go to Europe, labor chief tells RP nurses

FILIPINO nurses seeking employment abroad should look toward Europe where the demand for foreign nurses is increasing due to the aging population there.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said Holland's hospitals and health care facilities need 44,000 nurses this year.

She said the United Kingdom needs 18,000 nurses.

Sto. Tomas said the UK, which started hiring Filipino nurses in 1999, has become attractive to local nurses because of the high pay there, which is comparable to that in the United States.

"I met two male Filipino nurses in London and they told me they were earning at least 2,000 pounds a month," Sto. Tomas said. "That's P150,000 a month."

Filipino nurses in the US, where the demand for them is also high, are paid an average of $20 an hour.

Angeles Wong Garcia, officer in charge of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, said Philippine labor officials are currently in Norway to set up of a system for recruiting Filipino nurses. Norway currently needs 3,500 nurses.

Garcia said Canada is opening up approximately 200,000 immigration slots, including those for nurses.

In the US, the American Competitiveness in the 21st Century Act of 2000 increased the quota for foreign workers to 195,000 in the next two years. The POEA said this would benefit Filipino IT workers, teachers and nurses.

Filipino nurses can now enter the US under the H1-B visa as non-immigrants or through the EB-3 visa as immigrants. Garcia said states where there are shortages hire nurses under the H1-C visa.

Sto. Tomas said the aging population in highly developed countries should keep the labor market for Filipino health care professionals open.

"They prefer Filipinos because we are more caring," she said.

Sto. Tomas said even Japan is likely to open its doors to Filipino nurses in the next two years because of its graying population.

She said the government is working on a project with the Japan International Development Organization to set up a health care worker training center and a Japanese language school in the Philippines to facilitate the employment of Filipino nurses in Japan.

Garcia said other Asia-Pacific countries like Singapore and New Zealand are also hiring Filipino nurses for their rest homes and homes for the elderly. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

TO THE RESCUE. Dr. Harsh Varma, World Tourism Organization representative for East Asia and the Pacific, arrived Saturday for a five-day visit on the invitation of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon. Dr. Varma is one of a technical team assigned by WTO Secretary General Francesco Frangialli to assist the Philippines in neutralizing its negative image abroad due to the recent kidnappings. Dr. Varma said Frangialli believes the Philippines has what it takes to succeed, "It just needs to address its image problem." ROGER MARGALLO

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PAF IS 54

RP pilots fly ancient planes twice their age

WHEN President Macapagal-Arroyo guests at the 54th anniversary of the Philippine Air Force today, she will see the same planes acquired during the term of her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, three decades ago.

Today, those ancient F-5/B fighter jets are being flown by pilots more than half their age.

In the '50s and '60s, the PAF was the envy of the other air forces in Asia. It was second only to Japan in terms of modern planes and weaponry.

Today the PAF finds itself in the doldrums after its modernization program failed to take off in the last 20 years, not for lack of leadership and planning, but for lack of funds.

When Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor was a junior officer flying UH-1W (Huey) helicopters in combat missions against the Moro National Liberation Front in the '70s, his dream was to have a modern air force in a few years.

His dream has remained so.

Today at the helm of the PAF, Defensor still flies the same old Hueys, while the younger pilots fly the much older planes.

Like his predecessors, Defensor has a grand plan—to acquire new F-16C fighters and reconnaissance planes and helicopters to make the PAF the power every airman dreams of.

Modern fighter jets such as the F-16C are equipped with radar that can spot enemy aircraft up to 100 miles away. They could send their missiles that far, too.

Today, "in a dog-fight, the decrepit F-5 planes of the PAF would be blown to bits before they could even take off," said an Air Force official.

Today, he said, the joke is that the PAF has the air but not the force. *Ben Cal, PNA*

8 more foreigners face death for shabu

EIGHT foreigners—seven Chinese and an Australian—arrested this year for drug trafficking face possible death sentences if the courts find them guilty, former Sen. Ernesto Herrera, founding chair of the Citizens' DrugWatch Foundation, said yesterday.

Herrera, one of the principal authors of the Death Penalty Law, named the foreigners as Australian national John Martin, 37, and Chinese nationals Reh Ming, 36; Lim Shu Hal, 40; Wang Shizhi, 20; Tal Ti Yun, 45; Sammy Lu, 40, and his wife Sherly Lu, 33; and Yan Jin, 28.

Martin was nabbed with 230 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu worth P460,000 in Angeles City last month.

The seven Chinese, including a woman, were all nabbed in Metro Manila. Each was caught trafficking in huge amounts of shabu ranging from one to three kilos.

Under the 1994 Death Penalty Law, trafficking in at least 200 grams of shabu is punishable by life imprisonment or death by lethal injection.

At least 60 convicted drug traffickers, including 18 foreigners, have been sentenced to death in the country since the reinstatement of capital punishment in 1994.

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2 PM:
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by Rino Datuin, Chief, Exhibits & Design Division, CITEM
4 PM:
Handmade Paper Products Demo
by Cottage Industry Training Center

July 6, Friday
2 PM:
Creative Food Packaging
by Elizabeth Thomas,
General Manager, Wonderworks Kitchen
4 PM:
Fossilized Flower Making Demo
Cottage Industry Training Center

July 7, Saturday
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Entrepreneurship 101
by Entrepreneur Phils. Magazine
4 PM:
Candle Making Demo
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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, July 2, 2001
13th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 18:16-33
Gospel: Mt 8:18-22

When Jesus saw the crowd press around him, Jesus gave orders to cross to the other shore. A teacher of the Law approached him and said, "Master, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Another disciple said to him, "Lord, let me go and bury my father first." But Jesus answered him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

Commentary

In today's reading Jesus is portrayed as the new Moses who is about to lead his people to the new promised land on the other side of the sea. Just as Moses gave the Law to set slaves free from their old condition of slavery in Egypt, now Jesus has come to bring this Law to perfection. He came to set God's people free from every oppressive force, especially that of the devil. He needs, however, people who are prepared to leave everything behind and to follow him unconditionally. The theme of following Jesus stands central in this reading. Following Jesus takes priority over personal security and the considerations of family.

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JUDICIAL ETHICS—Proper judicial decorum—Besides the basic equipment of possessing the requisite learning in the law, a magistrate must exhibit that hallmark judicial temperament of utmost sobriety and self-restraint which are indispensable qualities of every judge. A judge anywhere should be the last person to be perceived as petty tyrant holding imperious sway over his domain. Such an image is, however, evoked by the acts of respondent judge in this case. It has time and again been stressed that the role of a judge in relation to those who appear before his court must be one of temperance, patience and courtesy. A judge who is commanded at all times to be mindful of his high calling and his mission as a dispassionate and impartial arbiter of justice is expected to be "a cerebral man who deliberately holds in check the tug and pull of purely personal preferences which he shares with his fellow mortals." Judges have been admonished to observe judicial decorum which requires that a magistrate must at all times be temperate in his language refraining from inflammatory or excessive rhetoric or from resorting "to the language of vilification." [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Cañas v. Castigador, G.R. No. 139844, Dec. 15, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Imelda defers trip to fight PCGG order

By Joey Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—"The whole world knows the Romualdezes owned that property even before I became first lady and (Ferdinand) Marcos became president."

With that, former first lady Imelda Romualdez-Marcos challenged the government order barring her from her sequestered property in Barangay Olot, Tolosa, Leyte.

Ms Marcos was supposed to leave today for the United States after the Supreme Court granted her 45 days to travel abroad to undergo "skull trauma therapy."

Instead she is spending the day, which also happens to be her birthday, in court to question the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) order barring her and her family from the sequestered beach estate in Olot.

Ms Marcos told the Inquirer Saturday the PCGG order came as a "shock" to her.

"I was not only surprised by the decision but also shocked and devastated. She said the Romualdezes had "owned the property since 1875."

Ms Marcos said her medical trip would have to wait because she could not just let the Olot property go without a fight.

She said it was her "ancestral home" where her parents, Vicente and Trinidad Romualdez, were laid to rest.

Also buried at the family mausoleum on the property are her father's first wife, Azerida, and a half sister and her unborn child.

The Olot property is a 45-hectare multi-million-peso coastal estate that includes a palatial rest house, a beach with white sand, a golf course and several buildings.

The government sequestered it after the Marcoses fled the country in 1986.

Last Thursday, lawyer Ruben Carranza, PCGG legal affairs chief, visited Olot to check if his directive to the PCGG Eastern Visayas office to lock up the property had been followed.

He had also ordered that no Romualdez or Marcos family member would be allowed on the property without the permission of the PCGG.

"We have the keys to all the guest rooms. They cannot just enter the property without securing our permission," Carranza told the Inquirer during the visit.

"(But), we might allow them to occupy the property on a case-to-case basis," he said, without elaborating.

In 1994, the government granted Ms Marcos' request to renovate the property in anticipation of US President Bill Clinton's visit during the 50th anniversary of the American landing at Leyte in World War II.

Clinton did not come but Ms Marcos began occupying the property whenever she was in Leyte.

During her visit here on Friday, however, she had to stay at the beach house of her younger brother, Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez, in San Jose District.

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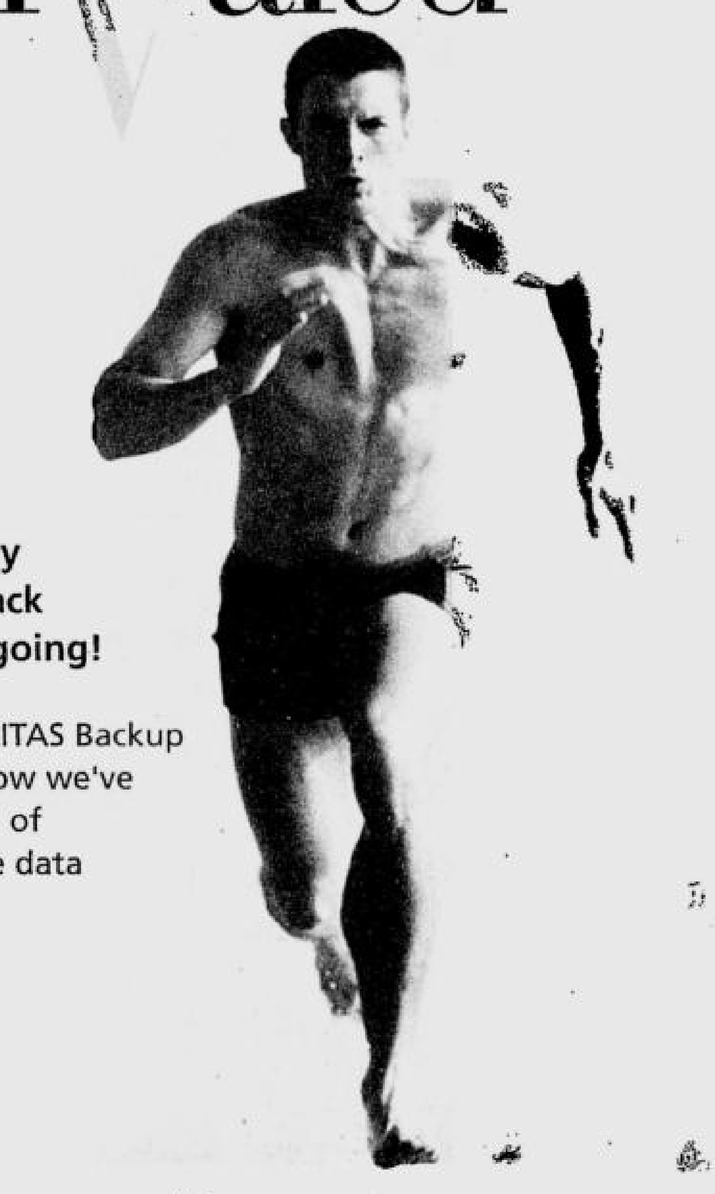

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Full, fast, credible inquiry

EDITORIALS

THE ALLEGATIONS of "Ador," a former peddler of smuggled goods who claims to be a civilian agent of the now-defunct Presidential Anti Organized Crime Task Force, are nothing short of sensational. Not everything he says adds up, but enough seems specific enough to merit an investigation—full-blown and post-haste.

A legislative inquiry into the matter does not make for an auspicious start to the 12th Congress, whose officials mark their first working day today. But an investigation, perhaps by the Senate blue ribbon committee, is absolutely necessary, for the following reasons:

- A new senator, former Philippine National Police and PAOCTF chief Panfilo Lacson, has been implicated, once again feeding rumors that he is really the country's kidnap king. The independent Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, nominally of the opposition, aired cautionary remarks last Thursday, noting what seems to be a pattern among administration officials to link Lacson to major crimes. If only to afford a new member of the Senate a chance to meet his accuser in a venue other than a court, the Senate should begin an inquiry.
- The allegations have become part of the entire destabilization scenario, sowing fear among the public and generating more political uncertainty. The manner in which the allegations were initially made, using the facilities of the GMA-7 television network, have ensured wide publicity for them, even the most incredible-sounding. "Ador" has met with the National Bureau of Investigation, and Malacañang is interested in setting up a meeting with the President, but essentially the allegations were filed, so to speak, with the court of public opinion. A legislative inquiry is needed to put some discipline into the process, in the same way that public shock and curiosity over the *jueteng* scandal were given some order through the blue ribbon hearings.
- It is no secret that the director of the NBI, former police general Reynaldo Wycoco, or the PNP's intelligence chief, police colonel Reynaldo Berroya, are bitter political and career enemies of Lacson. In fact, Lacson last Friday identified Berroya as reportedly responsible for scripting "Ador's" explosive allegations. For any investigation to be carried out with results acceptable to the public, therefore, the participation of Wycoco and Berroya must be tempered with the involvement of other, presumably less subjective, parties. An inquiry by the Senate would provide the beginnings of a solution.

In the face of what Wycoco has called "very, very sensitive" allegations, our first response is to call for a transparent mechanism that will process the allegations.

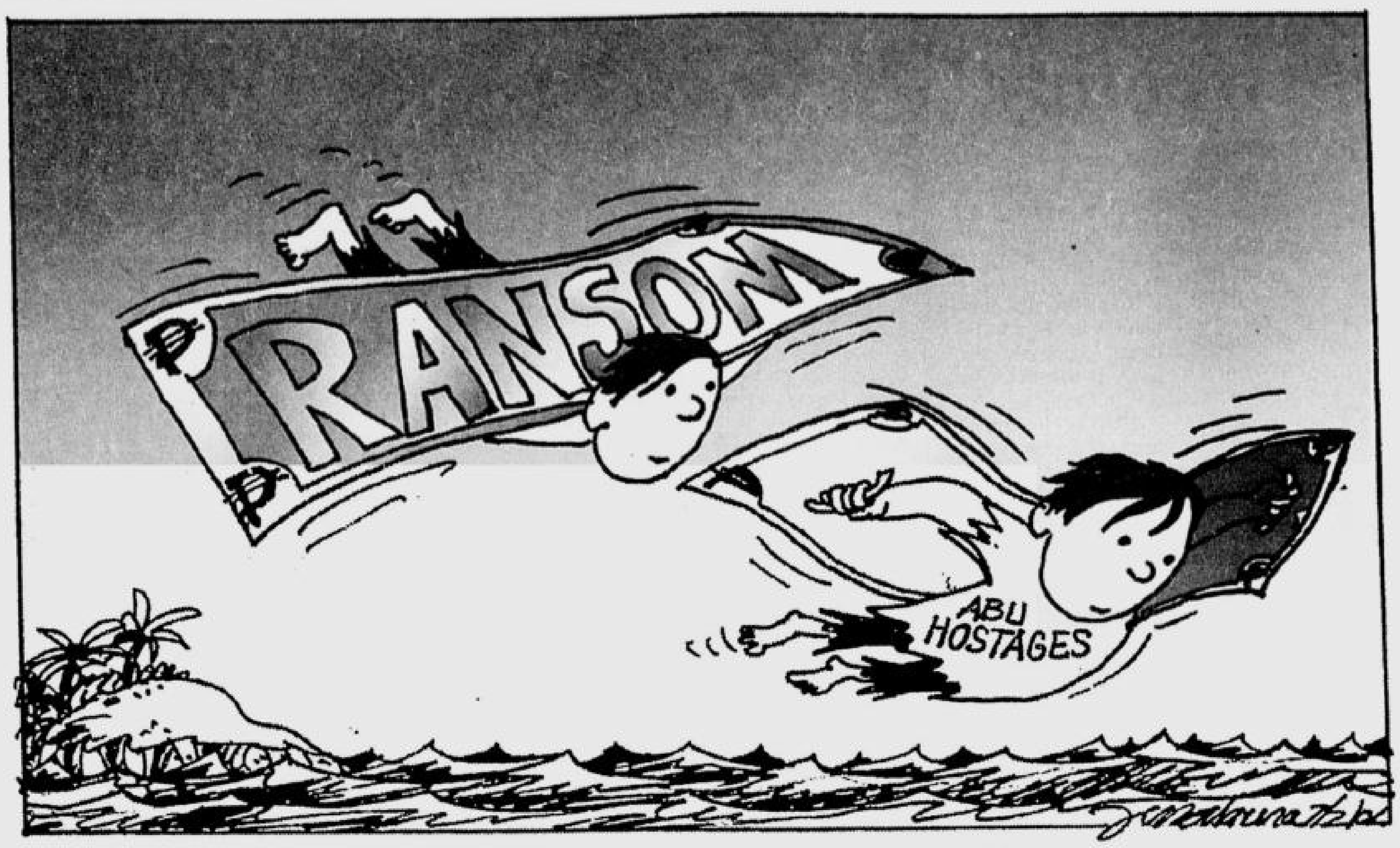
Our second is to suggest a framework for understanding them.

The pattern that Biazon speaks of, that Lacson is always linked to major crimes, is visible enough. It may be that the Macapagal administration has trained its sights on Lacson, making up stories along the way; but it may also be that those stories really have Lacson at their core, that the government is simply retracing a pattern that Lacson himself has drawn.

Unsinkable cases

IF "Ador" were an isolated case, we could dismiss the allegations out of hand. But there is the notorious Kuratong Baleleng case that refuses to die, the eruption of suspicious shootouts on the very day Lacson was appointed PNP chief, the May 1 assault on Malacañang that drove him into hiding, the kidnapping and murder of controversial publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito. It is the last, especially, that should give us pause. Both police and civilian agents of the PAOCTF have already confessed to participating in the crime. In fact, they will face arraignment on July 10, the very same day that Lacson's friend and superior, former President Joseph Estrada, will be arraigned in his plunder case.

Dacer's body, after it was found in that desolate lot in Cavite, has already been properly buried. But if, in spite of what Lacson calls a "bad script," the allegations of a former smuggler still ring true, that can only be because Cavite casts a long shadow.



'Kapalmuks' execs cling to their million-peso pay

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

EVER the greedy and shameless public official, some executives of Government Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) and Government Financial Institutions (GFIs) resist the order of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to trim their excessive pay to more reasonable and less shameful levels. While two-thirds of the nation wallows in poverty, while 2,000 babies die every day of malnutrition, while millions of urban poor live wretched lives, these greedy public officials want to continue to fatten themselves on public funds that should go back to the people in the form of basic services. *Kapalmuks talaga!*

While they don't hesitate to violate the law when it is to their advantage, they now suddenly express a strong desire to scrupulously follow the law to justify opposing the pay cuts. Some of them even hint at mutiny. The noisiest and most brazen among the officials, Winston Garcia, chair and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System, said that the pay of government executives cannot be cut "on the mere order of the President." Their salary scales are set by the boards of trustees of the corporations, he said. ("Trustee" is obviously the wrong word, as members of the boards of trustees have shown that they cannot be trusted.)

Well, if they can raise salaries, they can also reduce them, right? And there is no law that says conscience-stricken and obedient executives cannot voluntarily waive part of their pay. An angry President countered that if the millionaire executives, all of whom are her appointees, don't want to obey her order, the honorable thing for them to do is to resign. But that's exactly what they are not: honorable—although they like to precede their names with that lie.

Another excuse is that to attract good executives to government corporations, their pay must be at par with those in the private sector. Not necessarily. The practice only attracts the greedy, not the good ones. In the first place, the present millionaire executives in the government were not pirated from the private sector. On the contrary, they applied for the jobs, even using patrons, pressure, politics and influence to land the jobs, precisely because they are salivating for the fat pay.

In the second place, the money private companies pay their executives are their own, while the money collected by government executives is public money.

Garcia argued that the funds of the GOCCs and GFIs don't come from the budget but were earned by them. Wrong. Many of them are subsidized by the national government which gets its funds from taxes paid by the people (example: the National Power Corp., one of the highest-paying GOCCs). And even admitting that the GSIS, which Garcia heads, earns its money, that money belongs to GSIS members who contribute each month a part of their meager pay to the GSIS. But while GSIS members, like the members of the Social Security System, get a pittance for their benefits, their executives have the gall to collect millions in pay for themselves.

And in the third place, if they think their pay in government is not big enough for their talents(?), they can always quit and join the private sector—if the latter will have them. The truth is that they are clinging to their government jobs because the private sector does not think they are the "hotshots" that they think they are. Because if they are really hotshots, their corporations should be more efficient and earning more profits and paying their members more benefits instead of only themselves.

With their billions in investible funds, for example, the GSIS and SSS don't need geniuses to make more money. Every month, premiums fall into their laps without effort. All they have to do is invest these in government securities, blue-chip shares of stocks and high interest-earning bank deposits and earn more money without effort. But why are GSIS and SSS members who own the money getting only peanuts in benefits? And why are they losing money in bad investments? And why is the SSS management planning to hire "outside" help to run the multibillion-pension fund? Obviously, the executives don't have the talent or ability to deserve their high pay. The President should have no qualms about firing them.

Congress, by the way, should pass a law removing from the boards of GOCCs and GFIs the authority to fix the salaries, allowances and other benefits and privileges of their executives. Like the national government, they should also have salary standardization. The abuse started when they were exempted from the salary standardization law and the boards of directors, getting courage and shamelessness from the practice of their colleagues in other GOCCs, began giving themselves and other executives fat salaries and benefits. Free luxury cars are routine. In-house auditors are supposed to police abuses, but they are "bribed" into the conspiracy by giving them the same privileges. So they just close their eyes and enjoy the perks.

Before I end, I would like to let the people know who some of these millionaire executives are, so they can spit in their direction and give them the dirty finger when they see them in public.

Mr. Garcia of the GSIS is only the second-highest paid executive with an annual compensation of P6.51 million. But he has the biggest basic pay in the whole government: P4.283 million a year. The GSIS executive vice president gets P5.8 million. The highest paid is Honeygirl Singson-de Leon, chair of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office which raises funds for charity. She receives a total of P10,936,272 a year. PCSO general manager Virgilio Angelo gets P10.4 million. At the PCSO, charity begins at home.

Here are the others: head of the Philippine National Oil Co.'s Energy Development Corp.: P7.3 million; Development Bank of the Philippines president Remedios Macalincag: P4.188 million; Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura: P3.683 million (his deputies each get P2.097 million); SSS chair and president Vitaliano Nañagas II: P3.265 million and SSS executive vice president Honorato Templo: P4.9 million; Land Bank president Margarito Teves: P3.05 million; Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president Norberto Nazareno: P2.24 million.

Bangko Sentral's Buenaventura, PCSO's De Leon and Angelo, Land Bank's Teves and belatedly, GSIS' Garcia, have already signified their intention to obey the President's order.

No can do

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'VE seen the headlines over the past several days, and they have to do with the threats of the pro-Erap forces to mount destabilization moves to greet Erap's arraignment and trial. Government and business leaders apparently seem edgy at the prospect that they might mount another Edsa, much like they did during the last week of April. With different results.

Well, there's nothing to be lost in being prepared. But I don't know that the shrill cries of alarm are well founded. I cannot see how a coup will prosper. I said so at the height of "Edsa 3," when the pro-Erap forces seemed to have the world at the palm of their hand. The problem, I said, was getting Hilario Davide's court to legitimize the new junta, if a coup were to succeed, and the international community to recognize it. That looked like an insurmountable barrier then, it looks like an insurmountable barrier now. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had a point when she said shortly after May 1 that if the pro-Erap forces could not topple her government at the strongest moment, they could not do so at their weakest.

As to the pro-Erap forces being able to mount another Edsa, I had wanted to write a column some months back in response to that. To the oft-repeated cry that this country seemed destined to see one Edsa after another in years—or months—to come. To the oft-repeated lament that if an Edsa 2 and an "Edsa 3" could be mounted with the ease with which Filipino drivers cross a red light, an Edsa 4 could not be far behind. To the oft-repeated complaint that the country's greatest grace, or blessing, had become the country's greatest farce, or curse. I never got to write that column. This is as good a time as any to do so.

The cry, or lament, or complaint in a perverse way follows the spirit of the suggestion made by Time Magazine's Anthony Spaeth that Filipinos have made a travesty of "people power" by summoning it at will, or at the drop of a hat. For reasons that are often whimsical, such as getting rid of a duly elected president, and the most popular one at that. Whatever the reasons for "people power," or what passes for it—it is really mob rule, in undisguised form, according to Spaeth—it is subverting the institutions of society, and making a mockery of democracy.

Then and now, I cannot imagine where this idea comes from that it is the easiest thing in the world for anyone, pro- or anti-Erap, to mount "people power."

You would think this country was the current possessor of Aladdin's lamp and could bid its powerful resident, the genie, or its political equivalent, which is people power, to materialize simply by rubbing it. I should think the opposite is true. We Filipinos are not exactly given to expostulations of moral outrage—the national animal, appropriately enough, is the carabao, known for its infinite patience—even over the most breathtaking curtailment of our rights. That we are able to come together to oust a tyrant by a sudden burst of popular protest, is nothing short of a miracle.

Like I said before, in my reply to Spaeth, both Corazon Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin made the mistake of thinking they were the source of the miracle at Edsa and could summon "people power" by mere charisma, and were promptly disabused of the thought. Cory tried that tack when she opposed the Senate's decision to reject the US bases treaty in 1991, calling on her hordes to come to the Luneta to be one with her, and succeeded only in drawing a bedraggled crew of conscripts, a farcical throwback to Marcos' *hakot* power. Cardinal Sin tried the same tack when he opposed Fidel Ramos'—and Juan Flavier's—population program, and called on God's faithful to storm the ramparts that flew the flag of the condom, and succeeded too only in making himself look pathetic. The El Shaddai had more people at the Luneta on a stormy Saturday night.

I will not repeat the reasons I've cited over the past months for why the other miracle called Edsa 2 happened, except to emphasize yet again the importance of the impeachment trial in kindling the passions of the *masa*, along with the middle classes. The power of that trial, as I've said before, did not draw from the legal propositions that were put forward there, it drew from the drama that was put on stage there. A drama not unlike the ones that filled TV on dull afternoons, full of heroes and villains, victims and oppressors, the small guys with pure hearts fighting the big guys with evil hearts—indeed not unlike the storyline of Erap's movies themselves. And one that played out for a couple of months before it was unceremoniously cut off. Edsa 2 did not burst into flame overnight, it was a slow fire that turned into a conflagration when the time came.

"Edsa 3" itself happened because of the coming together of several factors. Chief of them was the elections. I said then and I say now that it was a mistake to arrest Erap before the elections. That put a tremendously political spin to what might otherwise have been an essentially legal action by government. Of course the Puwersa ng Masa exploited it—why the hell shouldn't it? It was the opportunity of a lifetime. It gave the PnM a mighty platform from which to mount its campaign. No elections, no "Edsa 3."

Just as well, government mishandled the arrest completely, sending out very powerful images that rubbed the *masa* the wrong way. "You want to shoot, shoot, don't talk," said Eli Wallach in "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." The same might be said for government. You want to arrest, arrest, don't talk. The Sandiganbayan made a big fuss about arresting Erap weeks before government actually did. Naturally, the pro-Erap crowd was there to resist it, aided in no small way by "opposition" candidates who wanted to score points with the voters.

Add to that the pictures of Erap being fingerprinted and photographed, and you had a very explosive situation. The idea, as I said before, was to show the world that this country, like South Korea, was determined to jail crooks, no matter how high up they went. Right lesson, wrong pedagogy. The message that was sent to the *masa* instead was that the country's elite—given (melo)dramatic, or "telenovellic," representation by Cory, Ramos, Cardinal Sin and Gloria: they were the villains of "Edsa 3"—had ganged up on someone who was at least one with them, if not one of them. The *masa* does not automatically take to the streets because a charismatic figure bids them to. They need a storyline—one that tugs at the head and heart, truly not unlike the movies—for it.

That isn't there at this point. An "Edsa 4"? Well, we are still a democracy, people are free to dream, or delude themselves.

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia

High court should reconsider its media ban

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PARTIES that challenged before the Supreme Court the issue of allowing full live coverage of the coming Estrada trial should immediately file a motion for reconsideration of the Court's recent ruling banning such coverage. The high court's 8-6 ruling was not only deplorable but inaccurate on several counts. To begin with, it tilted so much in favor of the fundamental right of the accused to "due process," but neglected the right of the Filipino people to complete information. The majority of the magistrates lost their balance. They failed to realize that this is no ordinary trial as the accused is a former president charged with plunder, which is unprecedented in the nation's history. Hence the ordinary parameters of procedure and justice cannot apply to it.

* * *

The Supreme Court justices who signed the majority decision were afraid that the Estrada trial would turn into a "circus," citing the Senate impeachment trial as a precedent. They feared "grandstanders" anew. But there's a big difference. The impeachment trial involved politicians acting as prosecutors or judges, most of whom were running in the May 14 elections. Admittedly many of these politicians grandstanded. But the coming trial will involve only prosecutors, lawyers, three Sandiganbayan justices and an ex-politician. Thus, there's little room for grandstanding.

More than any grandstanding, what the Supreme Court justices have to be truly afraid of is the people's reaction if they perceive that the results of the trial would be rigged. There is little likelihood of this if they can view the trial on TV.

* * *

The Supreme Court justices cited the court's precedent ruling in 1991 banning live radio and TV coverage of court proceedings in connection with the libel case filed by then President Aquino. But that case and the present one are worlds apart. Aquino's case didn't involve the interest of the nation; this one does. The high court majority magistrates also invoke the fact that in the US court system, live coverage is not allowed as it is thought to violate the accused's right to due process and is feared to be disruptive of proceedings. But as Justice Reynato Puno, one of the six in the minority bloc, pointed out, that fact no longer applies, for today, out of 50 states in the American Union, 47 allow TV coverage and only three do not. One of the three is New York state, where, it will be recalled, Imelda Marcos was tried and exonerated in 1990. Justice Artemio Panganiban also pointed out that with the advance in technology, coverage does not have to be disruptive at all.

* * *

Finally, a most important point. If the Supreme Court bans live coverage, this means only the print media could cover the trial—reporters writing stories of the trial for their newspapers. But this is a difficult thing, for we all know that the newspapers represent various interests, and in our current reality, it is no secret that many of these papers are sympathetic to the deposed President, or are owned by his cronies. Moreover, envelopmental journalism cannot be discounted. Thus, some of these papers may not be relied upon for fair and unbiased reporting.

Nothing can substitute for live TV and radio coverage, where the people themselves will be the ones to judge the fairness of it all.

* * *

At the lunch hosted by new Spanish Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja for INQUIRER journalists, he stressed that King Juan Carlos is quite eager to have President Macapagal make Spain a priority in her first foreign visits. "Bring the President here," was the king's instruction to his ambassador before the latter's departure for Manila. Ms Macapagal is scheduled to make that visit next year. Pantoja pointed out that apart from the fact that the Philippines is dear to the Spanish sovereign's heart, he probably feels that Spain has not done enough for its former colony. He candidly admitted his country's desire to reverse its historical image here as an "oppressor."

During his presentation of credentials at the Palace, Pantoja told the President that Spain is ready to help the Philippines "in whatever our sister nation needs" beyond the P1 billion it has given out in grants over the past three years. He pointed out that the P600-million annual assistance from Spain comes in many forms, e.g., devising a master plan for the old Spanish city of Vigan and an eco-tourism program for Camiguin and an anti-tuberculosis program. Unfortunately, he said, "we have been so low profile about our aid that nobody knows about it." Now the envoy is reversing tactics.

* * *

Ambasssador Pantoja stressed that his country could help the Philippines very much in the field of tourism, and this is true. Spain, which is the seat of the World Tourism Organization, attracts some 55 million tourists a year, or nearly double its 38 million population; compare this to the nearly 1.4 million arrivals in the Philippines from January to April 2001, many of them *balikbayan*. Asked by Gani Yambot what draws the tens of millions to Spain, the envoy pointed to the "right combination": a warm friendly people, abundant tourist infrastructure, a mild weather, the famous beaches and many ancient cities with famous historic monuments. He stressed, however, that in the Philippines "you have the most beautiful beaches in the world, but you have to get your act together."

* * *

Pantoja stressed that in the light of the acute need of this country to alleviate poverty, Spain is prepared to invest more funds in social reform programs here. He admitted, however, that this would mean, for instance, postponing aid to develop Intramuros as a primary tourist destination and channeling it instead to those of direct impact on the poorer sectors of society. In fact, he pointed out that today, a joint commission of the two countries, with the RP panel led by Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja, is meeting in Madrid to identify projects of this nature. One program the Spanish Embassy is looking at is providing higher training and more skills for Filipino seamen; with better training these seamen could graduate from being confined to menial jobs aboard foreign ships and thus improve their $250 a month salary, which, he stressed, is quite exploitative. Spain is in a position to give higher skills training as it has the second biggest fleet of fishing trawlers in the world.

* * *

Ambassador Pantoja also marvels at the "Filipino voice," citing that Pinoys, with their natural adeptness at languages, are now highly valued in industries that use voice recording, such as acting as toll-free operators abroad. Once, he confessed that he was walking along the Malate restaurant and disco row when he heard a singer who, he swore, sounded just like the late black jazz singer and piano player, Louie Armstrong. It turned out to be a lanky 21-year-old Filipino. Pantoja also saw a Spanish play in UP titled "Divinas Palabras" where the actors and actresses spoke flawless Spanish. Going backstage to congratulate the thespians, he realized that they couldn't carry on a conversation in Spanish at all; yet they all spoke Spanish flawlessly on stage!

After the 'mea culpas'–what?

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

TWO months have passed since May 1. Who has not heard of its dire indictments without feeling a tinge of guilt? "A wake-up call," "we have neglected the poor," "learn the *masa* point-of-view—listen to them—see the world through their eyes," "urgent," "we haven't shared enough, only tokens," " they're making a statement."

And so, soon after May 1, there we were, stumbling over each other, thumping our chests with *mea culpas*. Four powerful sectors: government, big business, the rich, the Catholic Church, bowed their heads and said "sorry." So did each one of us. The "sorry" has been sincere. But after the *mea culpas*—what? We're still talking abstract. We're still talking.

The truth is, we're stumped; we're at a loss. My friends are; I am. We're all asking what we can do; how? We try to "connect." "Doesn't it bother you? Erap having so many women?" "It's all right; he can support them; we can't." So, who can't "get it," they or us?

So, after the *mea culpas*—what?

How can government cross over from concepts to the concrete—concepts like: a "five-point national anti-poverty strategy" with the tired motherhood statements about redistribution, employment, livelihood, etc.; more motherhood statements like "prioritization of government funds," reshuffled "budget allocation," "acceleration of comprehensive rural development."

How about concrete starters like no more low-numbered cars, no more high-end cars and SUVs, no more sartorial elegance and fashion shows in Congress, no more junkets (with families at that)? How about concrete starters like concrete and immediate measures like Education Secretary Raul Roco's cancellation of all those contributions for *matrikula?* The poverty connection is real. I asked our young friend in the barrio, "Why aren't you in school?" "*Humahanap pa po ng pangmatrikula ang tatay.*" Said another, "*Ayun, sa kahirapan, hindi makapasok*. How about very do-able health clinics in poor communities so that our *labandera* with oozing boils on her stomach does not have to be shunted from one hospital to another seeking free treatment and begging for money for antibiotics?

How can big business graduate from such ambitious headlines like "Groups move to eradicate poverty in the country" to concrete initiatives like getting Ceres Doyo's and Melon Silverio's "micromicromicrocredit" moving? Or reducing those sky-high executive salaries and raising the hand-to-mouth pay of the lower levels? (President Macapagal has frozen such packages for government executives for good, we hope.) Experts should study the lopsided pay scale for there's something very wrong about the yawning gap between the extremes. The rich get richer, the poor get poorer and the middle is melting. And how many companies are members of Philippines Business for Social Progress? And can spokespersons like Guillermo Luz of the Makati Business Club reach the poor when they keep talking in English?

And how about the rich? As Gatsby says, the rich are different from you and me. When the lights go out, we sweat it out but they check into a hotel or condo. All we know is that their sanctimonious "we haven't done enough" must go beyond boardroom and fancy dinner talk.

And the Church—ah, the Church who would cleanse the "desecrated" Edsa Shrine. Long ago, Luciani, Pope John Paul I for only 33 days, "renounced the papal tiara" and a grand coronation. He did not want escorts or soldiers; did not want "the Swiss guard to kneel when (he) passed, or anyone else to do so either." He was aghast at all the titles of the Pope, "the only thing missing (was) the Pope the King."

When will the hierarchical Church shed the trappings of its temporal medieval heritage, a black spot in Church history when the institutional Church was at is worldly worst? The Church model that Spain brought to us carried all those trappings: royal clothing, jewelry, the edifice complex and above all, the stamp of authority, prestige and power. "The Church must live more simply."

There cannot but be distance between the lowly poor who must kiss a jeweled ring and look up at a jeweled pectoral cross, and perceive in such forbidding exteriors, authority, power and wealth. To be sure, good intentions and promises of renewal and reform abound, but too much, too long, has been locked within the covers of the Documents of Vatican II.

It's been two months. Have we moved closer to the poor?

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist.

World food security depends on biotechnology

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

HEN Dr. Perla Santos-Ocampo, president of the National Academy of Science and Technology, first mentioned Jaime Cardinal Sin's recent "Pastoral Statement on Genetic Engineering in Agricultural Products," we were ominously touring the unfunded and utterly neglected Philippine Science Heritage Museum at the Department of Science and Technology compound in Bicutan.

Ironically, the museum showcases many Filipino scientific contributions in the field of agriculture. In the past this included rice breeding and the development of Green Revolution techniques at the International Rice Research Institute, which many credit for preventing widespread famine during the 20th century in places like India and Pakistan.

Today, many Filipinos are at the forefront of the Gene Revolution and biotechnology, which even the United Nations acknowledges are absolutely essential to world food security in the 21st century. Studies by the United Nations Development Fund show that there is simply no more arable land to expand into for growing food without compromising the last of the world's forests and coastal areas. The only way to keep humanity fed in this century without causing an environmental debacle is by matching population growth with equivalent increases in agricultural productivity through biotech innovation. When humanity doubles, so must food production, but using only the same amount of land. It's that or war and famine.

Before she e-mailed the pastoral letter to me, I was secretly hoping it would be a piece of pre-Galilean dogmatism, full of superstitious nonsense fit to be skewered on the pages of the INQUIRER. But I was disappointed. After a promising quotation of Paragraph 2293 of the Roman Catholic Catechism, the epistle quickly revealed its inspiration to be a lame and boring New Age Euro-yuppie rant against biotechnology. Still, the letter is succinct and substantial enough to quote most of it in this space (the better to fend off accusations that I reflexively disagree with religious authorities, even when they are hastily, and with a straight face, claiming to have always valued scientific progress and discovery!).

In the beginning God gave mankind the gift of intelligence to be used, among other things, to collaborate with Him in caring for creation. Today this collaboration with the Creator is also evident in the advances of science and technology. The Church has always valued such progress, but has likewise made the necessary precautions so as not to lose sight of the true context in which it is situated.

Thus, after noting that "basic scientific research, as well as applied research, is a significant expression of man's dominion over creation," the Catechism of the Catholic Church states that "science and technology are precious resources when placed at the service of man and promote his integral development for the benefit of all. Science and technology are ordered to man, from whom they take their origin and development; hence they find in the person and in his moral values both evidence of their purpose and awareness of their limits." (No. 2293)

A concrete case that needs examination is genetic engineering applied to agricultural products. Along with the noble desire to combat hunger, poverty and disease in developing and applying such technology, scientists have the task of protecting the rest of creation from all possible harms that ensue. In fact, concerns have already been raised that certain experiments and marketing strategies may have detrimental effects on different areas of human existence, such as health and safety, environment and biodiversity, culture, consumers rights and proper distribution of food and earnings.

Genetic engineering is acceptable only if all risks are minimized. Otherwise, one may easily succumb to temptations of productivity and profit at the expense of the people and the environment. And as long as foreseeable dangers are not fully identified, studied and avoided, safe alternative procedures should be used, or if none, testing and development of the technology should be delayed altogether.

Although the original is impressively signed by Cardinal Sin, that may be his only original contribution to this production; his active authorship of most of the quoted pastoral letter is highly implausible. It is almost certainly the successful outcome of a plot to cynically use his good name and office for an antagonistic advocacy against biotechnology. Most of the pastoral letter consists of motherhood-and-coconut pie statements that no one would disagree with. But the payload is cleverly contained in the last paragraph above, where the cardinal might have easily missed reading it.

It is the stock argument being made by the anti-biotech movement that since you cannot absolutely guarantee the safety of testing and development of genetically engineered crops and foods, even such safety tests are to be opposed! Its formulaic expression and presence in the pastoral letter gives away the fact that somebody just put those words in Cardinal Sin's mouth, hijacking his reputation.

Although it sounds like prudence, it is actually paradox. What else do you call it if you oppose the very tests for the safety of a new technology because you don't think the tests are safe or accurate enough? Well, at least the good cardinal did not awaken Galileo by denying the existence of genes, or something equally embarrassing. That's progress, I think.

Undue publicity for PMA and law graduates

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

MORE than three months have passed since the last school year ended, but a reader still cannot get over what he considers the special attention the INQUIRER gave to recent graduates of the Philippine Military Academy and new members of the law profession.

The reader, Freddie Magno (fsmagno@pinoymail.com), wrote: "Going over your previous issues, it shows that you have consistently featured only the new graduates and passers of the PMA and bar examinations, respectively. I am afraid this indirectly or unknowingly influences the minds of the youth into thinking that the only noble professions are pursuing a PMA or law degree.

"Others, like those who topped the board exams for accounting, engineering, medicine, education, nursing and the like, are not well-featured in your paper. You had reports about the bar topnotchers, but only a straight news article about certified public accountants.

"Featuring the brightest from other courses doesn't only capture human interest elements, you also give them acceptance so that they would realize, at least, that their courses are just as good, and not inferior."

The editor in chief admitted that the graduation rites of the country's premier military institution always get front-page treatment from the newspaper, often accompanied by photos showing the commander in chief either saluting the colors, trooping the line of cadets or handing out diplomas to the new officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

What's more, days before the graduation, articles are published about the personal circumstances of the top graduates, including tidbits about unforgettable experiences the cadets went through during their four-year stay in the academy.

In marked contrast, the PMA's counterpart in the country's peace and order structure, the Philippine National Police Academy, hardly gets even the equivalent of one-fourth of the media attention given to PMAyers.

The President, not PMA

The editor in chief explained that the PMA graduation rites get prominent treatment in the newspaper because of the presence of the President who, in his or her capacity as commander in chief of all the AFP, commissions the graduates as first lieutenants or ensigns in the AFP commands.

(Incidentally, the law requires that all appointments to commissioned officer rank in the military must be signed by the President; that authority cannot be delegated to any other government official.)

The President is Numero Uno, not only in the government hierarchy and license plate, but also in terms of news source. The chief executive's official and unofficial acts, formal and off-the-cuff statements, including goofs and unguarded gestures, are observed and reported because they influence, one way or the other, national and local affairs.

A newspaper risks being "scooped" by competitors if it does not assign reporters to literally tail the President so his or her activities can be promptly reported. In the newspaper industry, losing out in the reporting game, in terms of speed and timeliness, is considered a fate worse than death.

It is not also uncommon for presidents who attend the PMA graduation rites to make policy statements in the course of their commencement address. The editor in chief believes the INQUIRER will be remiss in its obligation to inform the readers of the directives or policies that may have been taken up in the speech if it does not cover the ceremonies from start to finish.

And because readers may get bored just reading about the President's speech, the news is spiced up by adding human interest stories about the roots of the cadets, the sacrifices they underwent to make the final grade or anything that would make the readers relate to the graduating cadets.

Wrapping up, the editor in chief said the treatment the INQUIRER gives to the PMA graduates is an unavoidable consequence of the President's presence in the affair. If the highest official of the land is not in the middle of the ceremonies, the graduation rites will receive media coverage no different from the other activities featuring pomp and pageantry that the military routinely performs.

Bar examinees

With regard to the high-profile treatment of the results of the bar examinations, the editor in chief conceded that the reader raised a "very good point that should be seriously considered by the staff."

We discussed the possible reasons why media continue to give premium to the results of the bar exams. It's probably because the tests are reputed to be the toughest among the exams given by the government as a prerequisite for admission to a particular profession.

(Doctors, nurses, engineers, accountants and other professionals will no doubt dispute this hypothesis. But that's another story.)

Or is it because the country's lawyers are looked upon by many as the future national and local leaders of the country and therefore whoever is in the Top 10 of the successful examinees has the potential of one day holding office in Malacañang?

(Side note: Since lawyer Ferdinand Marcos was hounded out of power in 1986, those who came after him were a housewife, a retired military officer, a former movie actor and, the latest, an economist. No lawyer has succeeded yet in duplicating the late dictator's act. Boon or bane?)

Or is this practice a carry-over from the American period when the newspapers then, taking their cues from the colonial masters, gave high-profile treatment to the law profession to encourage the people to take the path of legislation, instead of armed struggle, in their quest for independence?

It must be a combination of all the reasons cited above. But the editor in chief was quick to point out that in the last bar exams the INQUIRER did not put the results on the front page. The news report was instead placed on Page 3 and, in contrast to the previous years, there were no photos of the top examinees. Who knows where the news will placed be next year?

She recalled though that other newspapers gave front-page treatment to the bar exam results, complete with photos of some of the new lawyers and scenes at the premises of the Supreme Court when the results were released to the public.

On a personal note, I agree with the observation of the reader that the results of the lawyers' qualifying exams have been accorded attention over and beyond their true worth. Such a treatment reinforces the mistaken notion that the law profession (to which I belong) represents a career path that assures success and prosperity to its members.

No, it does not. True, lawyers are essential in the smooth working of a democratic government. But it is equally true that no country that is dominated or controlled by lawyers ever progressed. Perhaps, the reason why we have all these political and economic problems is that we have an oversupply of lawyers who, in order to survive, have no qualms about taking up anybody's cause regardless of the merits of the case as long as the price is right.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Jimenez must be prosecuted with Erap

LETTERS

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto's recent decision denying the petition of Mario Crespo a.k.a. Mark Jimenez to stand as state witness against ousted President Joseph Estrada who is facing charges before the Sandiganbayan is a welcome development.

Jimenez does not deserve to be enrolled under the government's witness protection program as a state witness because he is one of deposed President Joseph Estrada's cronies. He brokered a deal with the PLDT and the Hong Kong-based First Pacific Group where he earned $20 million and shared it with Estrada.

Just like Estrada, Jimenez was reported to have used the Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System pension funds. These funds were used by Equitable Bank to buy out PCIBank. The merged Equitable-PCIBank was later found during Estrada's impeachment trial as the keeper of the Jose Velarde bank account.

In addition, Jimenez is facing in a Florida court charges of tax evasion, mail fraud, conspiracy, wire fraud, false statements and illegal contributions to the campaign fund of the US Democratic Party.

He has no moral authority to stand as a state witness as he knew of or was even included in Estrada's shady deals and plundered the people's money. In fact, he should stand trial as Estrada's co-accused in the plunder case.

In denying Jimenez's motion, the Department of Justice must immediately effect his arrest now and let him face trial for his various cases including the US extradition case.

We feel that his newly gained position in the House of Representatives would only further his interest to dismiss his extradition case and cover up the other criminal charges against him.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo must pursue the case not only against Estrada but also against Jimenez and other cronies to prove her sincerity to her people and to show that her administration is no coddler of plunderers and will preserve the gains of Edsa 2. Also, to satisfy the country's treaty obligations to the United States, her administration must act on this matter seriously.—**VENER ALPAPARA, chair, People's Organization for the Preservation of Laws and Ethical Standards (Peoples), 474-B JLC Bldg., Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City**

Rude behavior of NCSO employee

IF there is a government agency that should be immediately privatized, if not abolished outright, it is the National Census and Statistics Office.

On June 11, 2001 at the NCSO was a dây I will not forget and an experience I don't want to go through again. It was exactly 8:10 a.m. when I joined the long line for claimants at "Area B" (releasing window). At that early hour, the queue of people already extended up to Edsa and there was nothing to shield them from the elements.

At about 2:30 p.m., hungry and thirsty (you cannot leave the line to eat or use the rest room because your name might be called while you are out), I finally reached the releasing office only to be told that my birth certificate had "expired." I insisted that only NBI and medical certificates have expiry dates, but the female employee just rudely shouted that since I failed to claim my birth certificate during the month when I made my request, "*itinapon na sa basura dahil ninanakaw dito at ginagamit ng iba.*"

So I was back to square one.

I have not seen such rudeness or lousy public service anywhere else. Do NCSO officials know or care about this at all?—**CONCHITA C. CONFESOR, Jaro, Leyte**

Lawyers and justice

WHAT does justice really mean? The Oxford American Dictionary defines justice as "just treatment, fairness." In our country, justice can be bent in favor of the privileged, but applied in full force on the poor and helpless. The late famous American lawyer, Clarence S. Darrow, even said that, "There is no such thing as justice—in or out of court."

Regarding the persistent clamor for house arrest instead of detention for deposed President Joseph Estrada, his supporters' offer of "critical collaboration" to the administration strikes me as blackmail. This means that the opposition in Congress will not help enact measures to address the country's urgent problems, especially peace and order and poverty. Will Estrada's staunch defenders and lawyers sacrifice the people's welfare just to satisfy the former president's whims? Just asking.

Robert Burton, an English philosopher and writer, must have certain lawyers in mind when he said: "Our wrangling lawyers are so litigious and busy on earth, that I think they will plead their clients' causes hereafter, some of them in hell."—**ADELFA L. ETRUISTE, E. Glinoga Street, Barangay Castillo, Pitogo, Quezon**

Nationality begets allegiance to country

THIS is in reaction to the address of Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. before the Philconsa, wherein he advocated dual citizenship for some individuals.

It may interest the readers to know that strictly speaking, there is no international law prohibiting dual or multiple nationality. This was revealed at the International Law Commission (ILC) sessions in Geneva on the topic of diplomatic protection.

There were indeed attempts to eliminate or abolish dual nationality. In the 1930 Hague Conference on the Codification of International Law, it was on the agenda to do away with dual or multiple citizenship. Instead the conference ended recognizing its existence.

There was another attempt by the European states in the 1963 convention on the reduction of cases of multiple nationality, but the meeting stopped short of achieving this goal. And in the 1997 European Convention on Nationality, many delegates accepted the phenomenon of dual or multiple nationality, admitting that it is a fact of international life due to the parallel operation of the principles of *jus soli* and *jus sanguinis*, by birth and descent.

In the Philippine setting, it cannot be denied that many persons possess dual nationality. But the Philippine Constitution ordains that dual allegiance of citizens is inimical to the national interest and shall be dealt with by law (Art IV, Sec. 5). Note that the Constitution refers to dual allegiance, not dual nationality. But nationality begets allegiance and when there is dual citizenship or nationality it will be difficult to determine where allegiance to one state begins and ceases in another state. What is inimical to national interest may be confined to one state and not necessarily to the other. No wonder to this date no law has been enacted that conforms with that constitutional mandate.—**RAUL I. GOCO, 5 10th St., Rolling Hills Subd., New Manila, Quezon City**

Molding the youth into peace builders

THE RECENT clamor of several youth groups to abolish the Citizen's Military Training (CMT) and the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) must be a source of jubilation for high school and male college students. At long last, these senseless, forced military trainings handled by the military are being challenged by the young people themselves.

So many complaints of our youth have been left unheard. Students face the threat of not being able to graduate if they do not finish their ROTC. Initiatives leading toward the abolition of the ROTC have been made and published in the pages of leading newspapers.

A press statement calling for the removal of the ROTC as a required course in college, signed by nine presidents of leading institutions in the University Belt Consortium, is a widely welcome development. But why only now? Why do we need the death of a UST cadet for us to question the decaying system of the CMT and ROTC?

The Philippines is one of the very few countries where conscription and forced military training are practiced The United States, which influenced the country to institutionalize the ROTC, never made it mandatory. The same goes for other nations in the region such as Thailand and Malaysia.

The CMT and ROTC are programs that only breed a culture of violence and militarization among our youth. Why are young people being taught about war, if they can be educated about peace? Why are young people being trained on assembling and carrying rifles if they can be encouraged to engage in dialogue? Why are young people being forced to become military reservists if they can be peace builders voluntarily?

Instead of a four-semester forced military training, education officials should realize the value of peace and human rights education as well as grass-roots peace-building initiatives in the light of the peace talks with the National Democratic Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Young people do not want to engage in war. Peace is their human right. And the government as well as the academe has the responsibility to mold them into peace builders.—**RYAN V. SILVERIO, Philippine Human Rights Information Center, Rm. 504 FMSG Bldg., Balete Drive cor. 3rd St., New Manila, Quezon City**

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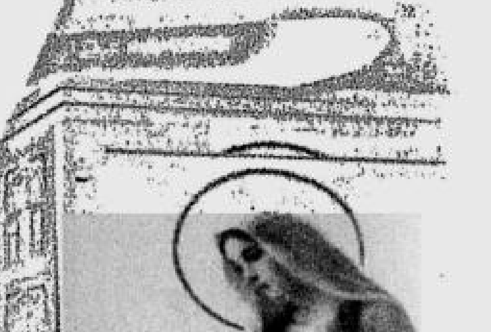

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Milosevic kept in isolation

THE HAGUE—Slobodan Milosevic was under close supervision in an isolation unit at a Dutch jail on Saturday as he prepared to face prosecutors at The Hague war crimes tribunal for the first time next week.

For a man who threatened to shoot himself in April rather than endure prison in Belgrade and who has a family history of depression and suicide, details emerging of the ex-president's departure from Serbia on Thursday painted a picture of defiance.

"Brother Serbs, farewell," a Yugoslav magazine quoted him as saying as he boarded a police helicopter on Thursday on the first stage of his journey to face charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes at the United Nations tribunal.

If convicted, it is likely to have been the arch-nationalist's last moment on his beloved Serbian soil.

A special edition of Belgrade's well-connected Weekly Telegraf tabloid carried pictures of the ousted Yugoslav president's departure—the first clear close-ups of him since Milosevic was jailed in Belgrade in April—and described him as "dignified and arrogant."

"You've got the wrong man," he told a UN official after he was read the indictment on charges of crimes against humanity.

"Nato is the right address, they are the villains.

"The Hague tribunal is no court, it's a political circus set up to destroy the Serbian nation completely," added Milosevic, tie-less and wearing a dark suit and white shirt, his familiar pudgy features staring straight at the camera.

Toppled last October after a decade of wars in which nearly a quarter of a million people died, Milosevic was arrested on corruption charges in Yugoslavia in April.

Belgrade's new reformist leaders finally handed him over to the UN tribunal on Thursday, helping unlock $1.28 billion in aid conditionally offered by Western nations.

The handover by Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic's government caused uproar in Belgrade, with Yugoslav federal premier Zoran Zizic resigning on Friday in protest.

Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica rebuked other members of the ruling reformist alliance on Saturday for saying he had supported the transfer of Slobodan Milosevic to the UN.

Kostunica, a fierce critic of the tribunal, is now involved in an escalating feud with Djindjic's government. Kostunica reaffirmed that he opposed the handover and had not been informed in advance of the Serbian government's decision.

But reformers vowed to cooperate with Western powers that went to war in 1999 to stop Serb ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

A Belgrade rally on Friday night attracted just a few thousand people in support of the man who was long feted at home as a national hero, despite international condemnation.

Milosevic now faces at least a month in isolation in The Hague, kept apart from the 38 other war crimes suspects from the former Yugoslavia. He will hear the indictment originally issued in 1999 against him on Tuesday morning.

"He has some privacy. They are keeping a close eye on him," tribunal spokesman Jim Landale told Reuters. His only visits had been from officials working for the tribunal. *Reuters*

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Cheney gets heart device, works Monday

WASHINGTON—Vice President Dick Cheney was released from hospital here Saturday, after receiving a "pacemaker-plus" aimed at regulating a heart condition, but doctors said he would be able to continue his work "unrestricted."

The procedure to place a pacemaker and an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) in the vice president's heart went "exceedingly smoothly," cardiologist Jonathan Reiner said, adding that Cheney, 60, would be back to work on Monday.

"This is really going to be invisible to him, and he's not going to have to change his lifestyle or his professional life in any way with this," Reiner said.

Cheney was shown on television shortly after the procedure, waving to onlookers as he got into his limousine but making no comments to reporters.

He was admitted to George Washington University Hospital at 8 a.m. Saturday—the third time he has made a hospital visit since he was elected along with President George W. Bush last November, and left at 3:20 p.m.

"The short-term is straightforward," Reiner said of Cheney's prognosis, which he called "terrific."

"This really is an insurance policy for him," he said of the procedure. "It's very, very likely that he will never use this device."

President George W. Bush, who was at Camp David for a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, said he had been kept in close contact with Cheney's hospital.

"It went well," Bush said when asked about Cheney's condition, adding that he did not believe Cheney's long-term heart condition would hamper his ability to do his job.

"I don't think he ought to slow down. I think he ought to listen to his body, which is what he has been doing," Bush told reporters after the summit.

,During the procedure, surgeons induced a brief episode of arrhythmia—an irregular heartbeat—in the vice president, then terminated it "with one pacemaker beep," Reiner said. The ICD was then implanted.

"The outcomes really are terrific following the placement" of the devices, given that arrhythmia can be "troublesome" if it occurs spontaneously, producing symptoms such as lowering blood pressure, the doctor added. *AFP*

Trimble quits; N. Ireland crisis deepens

BELFAST—Protestant leader David Trimble resigned on Sunday as Northern Ireland's First Minister, plunging the British province into a political vacuum and threatening a hard-won peace deal with minority Roman Catholics.

In the hours leading up to Trimble's midnight resignation, there were minor clashes between the two sides as the Protestant "marching season," an annual flash point for trouble, started in Belfast.

"As of midnight, David Trimble ceased to be First Minister of Northern Ireland's power-sharing government," a Northern Ireland Office spokesman said.

Trimble, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize winner with Catholic leader John Hume for their part in the 1998 Good Friday peace accord, precipitated the crisis by submitting a post-dated resignation letter several weeks ago in protest at the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) refusal to disarm as part of the deal.

Trimble, who was in France when the resignation came into effect at midnight, appointed Trade Minister Reg Empey, a member of his Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), to take over his duties.

Trimble was attending a commemoration of the First World War Battle of the Somme, in which many soldiers from Northern Ireland died.

Under the landmark Good Friday agreement, the power-sharing government of Catholics and Protestants that Trimble had headed will have a six-week "breathing space," either to re-install Trimble or replace him, before the Northern Irish assembly and executive are suspended.

If such steps fail, Britain can call new provincial elections or re-impose direct rule from London.

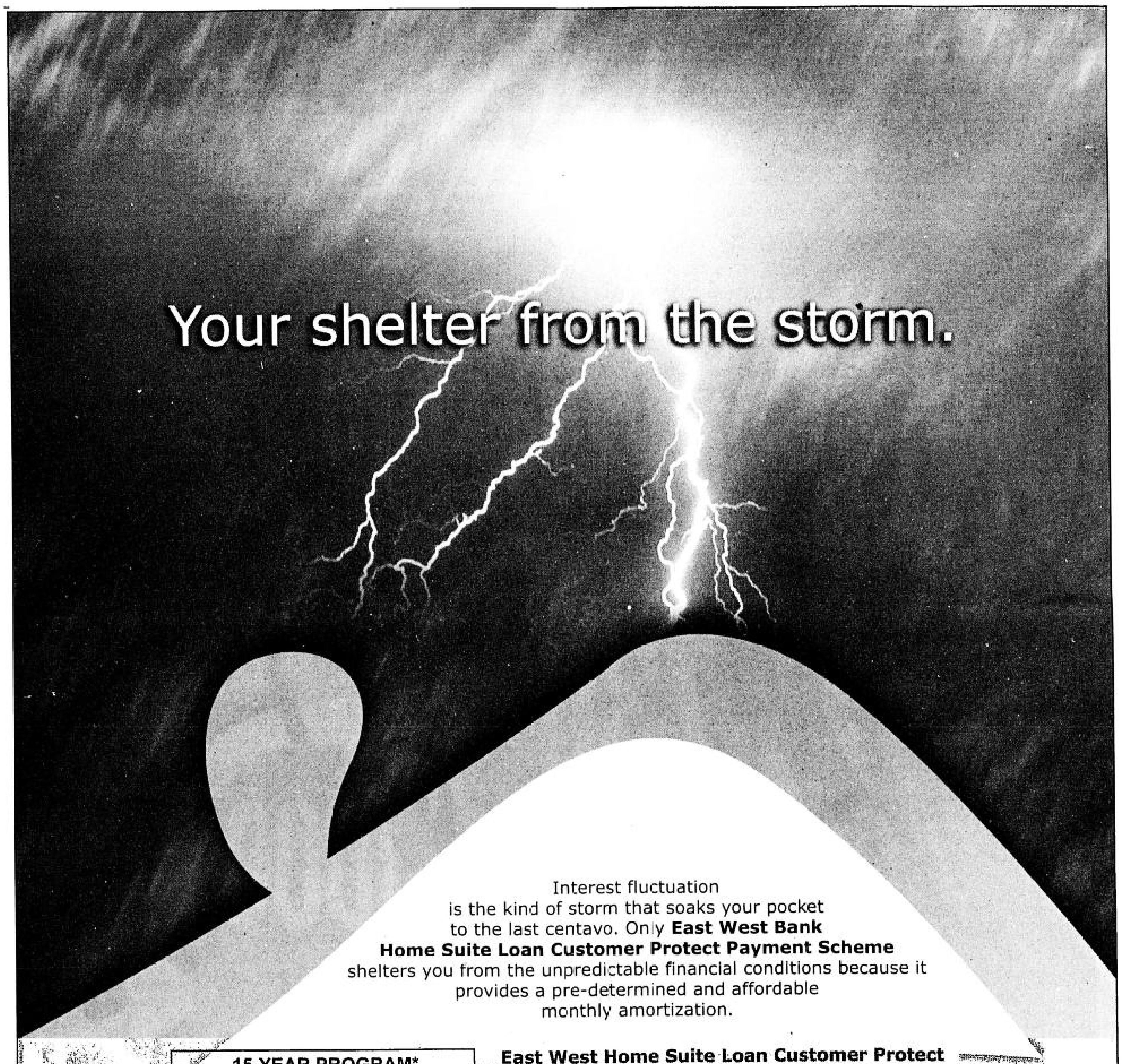
"I am sorry that David Trimble has resigned today as first minister, although I fully understand the reasons why he has felt it necessary to do so," British Prime Minister Tony Blair said in a statement issued early on Sunday.

"David Trimble has been a good first minister for the people of Northern Ireland and I hope that he will be able to resume that role shortly.

"Like David I too want to see the full implementation of the Good Friday agreement in all its aspects and that will be our aim in the talks over the coming days."

As Trimble left the province, police and British troops mounted a strong presence to head off trouble during a parade by the Protestant Orange Order institution.

There were only minor scuffles between police and residents as a concrete and steel barrier was put up by security forces to seal off the Catholic enclave ahead of the march. *Reuters*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N. Korea escapees reunited with relatives in S. Korea

SEOUL—A family of seven North Koreans flown to South Korea for asylum were reunited with three other relatives already in Seoul after fleeing their hunger-stricken communist homeland, officials said Sunday.

The seven—a couple, their two children, two grandparents and a nephew—arrived in South Korea on Saturday, ending a two-and-a-half-year odyssey that took them through China and then brief transit stopovers in Singapore and Manila.

They were immediately reunited with three other family members already in Seoul after fleeing North Korea, said officials at the National Intelligence Service, the main government intelligence agency.

The three included an older brother of Jang Gil Su, a 16-year-old boy whose illustrated diary depicting the family's escape out of North Korea caught international media attention.

Chang's diary was published in South Korea last year. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees cited it as a "compelling evidence" that the family could face punishment if returned to North Korea.

Jang's older brother, 20-year-old Jang Han Gil, had escaped to South Korea with two other remote relatives through an unspecified third country shortly before the seven-member group arrived on Saturday, intelligence officials said.

Officials withheld the defection of the three-member group for security reasons until the seven family members had arrived.

The number of North Koreans seeking asylum in South Korea has shot up in recent years, rising from 71 in 1998 to 148 in 1999, 312 in 2000 and 218 so far this year.

The seven-member group spent the first night of freedom in South Korea at a "safe house" awaiting debriefing on their ordeal, officials said.

"All are in good shape," said an official from the intelligence service. "All went to bed early probably because they were tried after a long, grueling journey."

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the North Koreans will undergo several days of debriefing and then receive at least a month of orientation designed to help them assimilate into South Korean society.

The orientation will teach them how South Korea's capitalist society works and how its people live daily lives, using subways, public phones, bank accounts and ATMs.

The state KBS-TV said the refugees will be given citizenship, a subsidized rental apartment plus about 150 million won ($117,000) in cash to help them settle in the country.

The seven stormed into the UNHCR's Beijing office on Tuesday, refusing to leave until they were granted passage to South Korea. They said they faced persecution if they were sent back to North Korea. *AP*

Okinawa rape spurs demands for US pullout

TOKYO—A storm of anti-US military sentiment was brewing in Japan Sunday as civic groups demanded the withdrawal of US forces and police in Okinawa continued to question US servicemen over the rape of a local woman.

"We strongly condemned the rape in Okinawa. The root cause of such a crime is the presence of the US military bases in Japan," said Tadashi Kawasaki, a civil activist at Broad National Combination for Independence, Peace and Democracy.

"People in Okinawa, in particular, have paid heavy prices because of the US military presence there. Thus, we demand the US military withdraw from Okinawa and Japan once and for all," Kawasaki said.

Meanwhile, police in the southern island of Okinawa continued to question several US servicemen for a third straight day over the crime that has reignited anti-US military sentiment here.

"We are questioning several US servicemen who were at the crime scene then," said a police official in charge of investigating the rape said Sunday.

The assault against an Okinawan woman in her 20s took place in the early hours of Friday at a parking lot in Chatan, around 18 km north of Naha, the capital of Okinawa.

Police suspected that a US Air Force sergeant in his 20s from the Kadena Air Base in Okinawa had raped the woman, but the sergeant denied the allegations, local media reports said.

The Okinawa police official declined to say whether this Air Force sergeant was included in a group of US servicemen being questioned Sunday.

The rape, which follows a series of sexual offenses by US soldiers on Okinawa, came just a day before the first summit between US President George W. Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. *AFP*

ULTIMATE GENDER EQUALITY? REUTERS

Dutch artist Moon Zyip (right) and friend Liselotte de Wif demonstrate with cardboard funnels how women can urinate standing up at a urinal at the open air festival in St. Gallen June 29.

* When calling from outside Metro Manila, dial (02) 730-1000 and (032) 412-1000 outside Metro Cebu. Standard NDD rates apply.

Bush backs Koizumi reform drive

CAMP DAVID, Maryland—President George W. Bush on Saturday offered Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi firm and unqualified support in his "courageous" reform drive designed to rouse Japan's comatose economy.

But the two leaders, holding their first summit at the secluded Camp David retreat, could not agree on how to tackle climate change—despite forging what Bush aides said was a warm personal "bond."

"I have no reservations about the economic reform agenda that the prime minister is advancing," Bush told reporters after a stroll through the oak-shaded compound where presidents have kicked back their heels for 60 years.

"The prime minister recognizes that there is a need to have deep and meaningful reforms," Bush said, his tone in stark contrast to frustration at Japan's travails that had been evident among aides of the previous Clinton administration.

Both men have much to gain from projecting an instant friendship.

Pictures of Koizumi striding the world stage are invaluable as he tries to stockpile political capital for a potentially revolutionary reform program.

And Bush has a huge stake in Koizumi's success, as well. His endorsement of his visitor's reform program reflects the US hope that a Japanese leader will revive the economy and take more of a role in Asian security.

The president, who often expounds on the qualities of "leadership," showered his guest with praise.

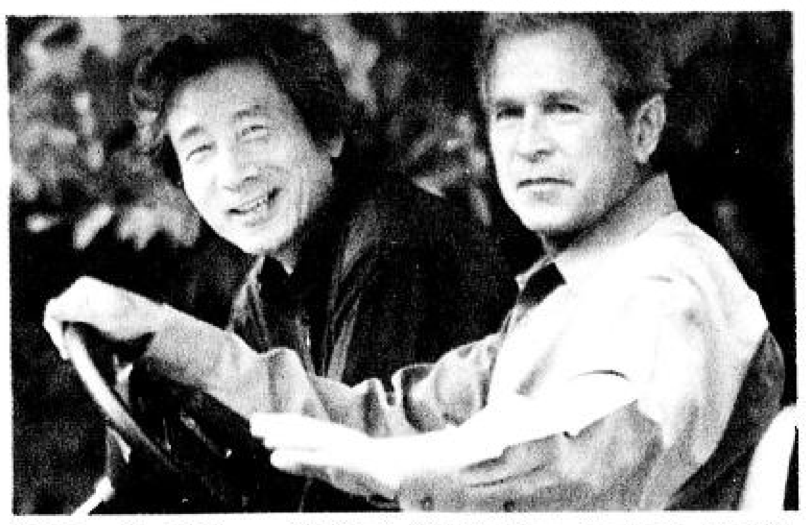
"He is willing to make difficult choices, and that is what a leader does... He is a courageous leader," Bush said.

But signs of what Bush aides said was an instant "bond" between the two leaders could not disguise some disagreements, as the two sides were forced to paper over obvious gaps on the environment.

Japan was dismayed when Bush ruptured the Kyoto treaty, designed to cut greenhouse gas emissions, by refusing to push for congressional ratification.

To avoid embarrassing his host, Koizumi said he would not for now seek to rebuild momentum behind a global drive to combat climate change without first obtaining US support.

The two sides agreed to launch a new bilateral initiative on economic and trade issues, involving a subcabinet-level financial dialogue forum that could give Washington a chance to advise Tokyo on the disposing of huge bad loans held by banks as well as on monetary and fiscal policy. *AFP*



US President George W. Bush (right) drives Japanese Premier Junichiro Koizumi in a golf cart at Camp David. Koizumi arrived on Saturday at the US presidential retreat outside Washington for a summit meeting with President Bush. REUTERS

EU presidency comes home to Belgium

BRUSSELS—The agenda-setting EU presidency comes home Sunday to Belgium, with Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt setting himself a daunting mission: to save the European Union from itself as it grows in size and clout.

With the 15-nation club of rich western European nations poised to expand into the poorer, ex-communist east, the boyish Belgian leader sees his six-month turn at the EU helm in nothing less than historic terms.

"I really do not exaggerate," Verhofstadt told the European Forum Wachau in Austria in a recent warm-up speech to Belgium's 11th turn at the six-month EU presidency.

"If indeed we fail to find the right answers, the European Union risks to get bogged down or slide away in conflicting national interests, in institutional disarray," he said.

His goal is to "deepen" what has so far been an obtuse, academic debate on where the European Union wants to go next, a half-century after it rose out of the ashes of World War II to become a key player on the global stage.

The Belgians—who play host in Brussels to the powerful EU Council of Ministers, the executive European Commission and the directly elected European Parliament—have several other pet projects on their EU plate.

"Improving quality of work (and) combating exclusion and poverty" is one of the items on their official to-do list, available on the Belgian presidency Internet site (http://www.eu2001.be).

Others: "Promoting sustainable economic growth... creating a European area of freedom, security and justice... promoting sustainable development and improving quality of life."

Last but not least is the enlargement of the European Union to include, as early as 2004, at least some of the 12 eastern European and Mediterranean states which are still engaged in accession talks with Brussels. *AFP*

Ex-police chief draws 632 years for Brazil slays

SAO PAULO, Brazil—A former police commander was found guilty and sentenced to 632 years on Saturday for the deaths of 102 inmates in Brazil's worst ever prison massacre, a decision hailed by activists as a turning point to end impunity for a notoriously violent police force.

A jury held Col. Ubiratan Guimaraes responsible for the shock troops that stormed the Casa de Detencao in Sao Paulo's Carandiru prison complex with machine guns and rifles during a riot on Oct. 2, 1992.

He received six years for each of the 102 deaths and a total of twenty for five attempted murders. The prosecution did not seek a conviction for the deaths of nine other inmates who were stabbed.

Guimaraes, 58, will only spend up to 30 years in jail under Brazilian law. Defense lawyer Vicente Cascione said he appealed the court's decision and Guimaraes will remain free in the meantime.

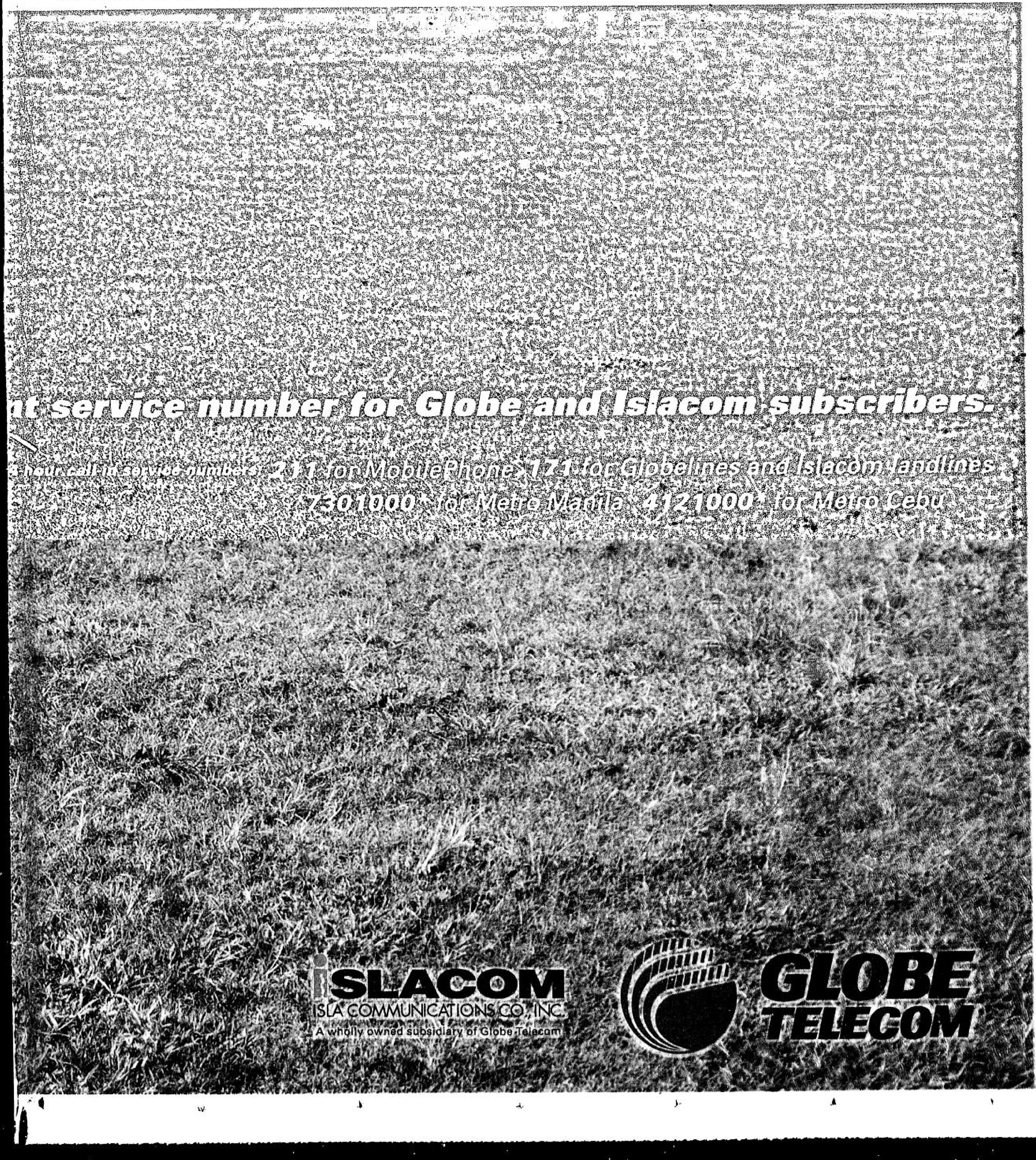
Judge Maria Cristina Cotrofe read the sentence from the seven jurors past midnight for a crowd that applauded the outcome of the 10-day trial.

"This is a historic decision in that it sends a very clear signal to police that those in command are responsible for the action of their subordinates," said Tim Cahill, researcher for Amnesty International in London.

After the sentencing Guimaraes hugged his lawyer and left the courtroom with tears in his eyes. His wife, son and friends cried.

"Without a doubt this was a very positive step toward ending impunity, a very big move forward for democracy," said Sao Paulo state lawmaker Renato Simoes.

It was the first conviction in the Carandiru massacre—as it came to be known. Another 85 officers will be tried in the same case. *Reuters*



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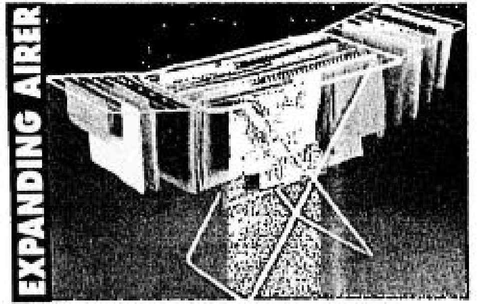

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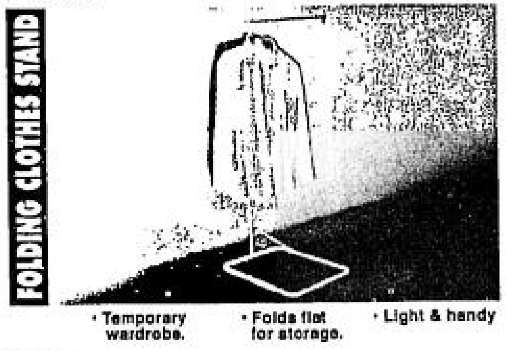

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Isafp agents scour Bacolor for Bentain

BACOLOR, Pampanga—A difficult search.

This was how Chief Supt. Enrique Galang, Central Luzon police director, described the task of finding here the drum containing the body of Casino Filipino employee Edgar Bentain.

Galang judged the undertaking to be of such nature amid reports that agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) came here Saturday to look for Bentain's body.

The lead was offered by one Ador, a civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, who, claimed in an affidavit that Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, allegedly on the prodding of former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson, ordered the snatching and execution of Bentain.

The disappearance of Bentain in January 1999 was believed connected with the release of a video footage that showed then presidential candidate Joseph Estrada playing baccarat at the Casino Filipino at the start of the campaign period.

Aquino, according to Ador, ordered him and two other PAOCTF agents to proceed to Bacolor. There, he saw Bentain still alive, his half-body buried in a drum of cement that was later sealed.

The drum was thrown "near a long bridge in Bacolor," Ador said.

Since 1999, the Sta. Barbara Bridge is the only long bridge between this town and nearby Sta. Rita.

Galang said it would be difficult searching for the drum there as the Pasig-Potrero River is an active lahar channel. The bridge is also between the eastern and western portions of the FVR Megadike that diverts lahar to flow downstream of the river.

The creek under the slightly shorter Gugu Bridge was also an active lahar channel, Galang said.

Near both bridges, bulldozers worked round-the-clock, scooping lahar that has gathered under the bridge.

There were no reports in the last two years of a discovery of a drum containing a body, police records showed.

"I don't know how they will find the drum there," Galang said.

The downstream area is wider and snakes through a stretch of some 90 kilometers before lahar finally drains into the Manila Bay, government engineers assigned at the megadike said.

No Isafp agent was, however, seen at the site on Saturday. The search, if one was indeed planned, was not coordinated with the Isafp's Military Intelligence Group based in Camp Olivas or with the Pampanga police, according to Senior Ismael Rafanan, provincial police chief.

It puzzled police sources why the Isafp was working on the case. The PNP and the NBI were holding Ador as a witness. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Lone kidnapper 'returns' victim

COTABATO CITY—A midwife was seized Thursday in Maguindanao by an unidentified man who apparently fell in love with her.

But Vivian Cosicol, of Barangay Pagalungan, Kabuntalan, Maguindanao, outsmarted her lone captor by repeatedly telling him that she was married and that it was a mortal sin for Muslims to "touch" a married woman.

Dr. Tahir Sulaik, Maguindanao health chief, said Cosicol, who has been serving Barangay Pagalungan for the past 22 years, was taken at gunpoint and was forced to board a boat in Kabuntalan's swampy area.

She was seized at noon and was released before 10 p.m. the same day.

"Throughout my captivity, the man pointed his gun at me but he refused to see me eye to eye, as if he was hiding his face so that I could not recognize him," Cosicol said.

After she bombarded him with statements that she is married and has children, the man decided to "return" the midwife to where she was taken.

"He brought me back to Barangay Pagalungan, saying nothing as if he regretted (having) abducting me," she told radio dxMS here.

But Sulaik was saddened by Cosicol's ordeals. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Radioman survives ambush

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A broadcaster of Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) survived an ambush near his house in Barangay Gusa here Thursday night.

Zaldy Ocon, a commentator of radio station dxCC, was driving his Mazda pick-up when two motorcycle-riding men fired at him.

Chief Insp. Paciano Deloso, chief of the Agora police station, said the bullets missed Ocon by a few inches.

Deloso said Ocon, who was armed with a .45 cal. pistol, failed to fire back.

"He jumped out of the vehicle soon after the shots were fired," Deloso said.

Ocon is one of the hard-hitting radio commentators in the city. He is known to cock his pistol while on the air, challenging his opponents to a gunfight.

He is also a promoter of the controversial medicinal tonic "Banal sa Tubig: Mindanaoan" that is claimed to give immediate remedy for various illnesses.

Police are still investigating the incident but Susan Palmes, manager of a rival radio station, dxJR, said the incident might have been stage-managed by Ocon to draw in listeners.

The gunmen's motorcycle, a black Yamaha DT 125, was found abandoned on J.R. Borja Street.

In General Santos City, a broadcaster of RMN's dxMD Radyo Agong is preparing to file a physical injury case against a son of an environment official, who allegedly mauled him on Wednesday afternoon.

Albert Cagaoan, host of the "Mano-Mano sa dxMD" program aired every night, suffered contusions on the face when Sherwin Patricio, eldest son of Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Cenro) Andrew Patricio, allegedly punched him.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Sherwin, but a source bared that he was already hiding in their ranch in the remote Barangay San Jose. *Froilan Gallardo and Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Radio station attacked

SANTIAGO CITY—Two motorcycle-riding men fired at a radio station in Barangay Sinsayon here on June 24. Police said no one was reported hurt in the attack, but a glass panel of an announcer's booth in the station was shattered by a bullet hole. Arturo An. Daguro, dwSI-Angel Radyo Santiago station manager, said the attack could have been carried out to harass him and other anchors because of their commentaries against top city officials. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Mining applications OKd

BAGUIO CITY—The regional Environmental Management Bureau approved last year four applications of mining firms to explore in 11,444.77 hectares of land in the Cordillera. But the bureau ordered the proponents to consult the host communities first on their projects in accordance with the policy of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. The areas to be explored are in Mankayan and Tuba towns in Benguet. ***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

3 killed in mishaps

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—A 4-year-old girl and two others were killed in three separate road accidents in Bulacan on Thursday. Angela May Manego was killed after she was hit by a 10-wheel truck while crossing a road in Baliuag. The driver, Felino Toribio, surrendered. In Malolos, Clodualdo Javier, 62, was killed after he was sideswiped by a speeding Tamaraw FX taxi. Another pedestrian, Francis Villena, 20, was killed when a jeepney overtook a motorbike and hit an acacia tree along the Pulilan-Plaridel diversion road.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Child-friendly training

THE SOCIAL Action Center (SAC) of the Capiz Archdiocese will host the training of Core Leaders for the Implementation of Child-Friendly Movement in Grassroots Communities in Panay and Romblon at the Villa Patria Cottages in Baybay, Roxas City, on July 3-6. Fr. Aris Pedrajas, SAC director, said the SACs of Panay and Romblon would train children's advocates to become animators of the child-friendly movements in their communities and in schools. "We would like to make our communities child-friendly," Pedrajas said.

Cops seize shabu

PLARIDEL, Bulacan—Police raided the house of a suspected illegal drug pusher here Tuesday and seized 145 grams of shabu (methampethamine hydrochloride), drug paraphernalia and 14 pieces of Valium tablets. But they failed to arrest the suspect, identified as Raul Esguerra. Police said they raided Esguerra's place after the arrest of a suspected pusher during a buy-bust operation two weeks ago.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Killers hunted

PAGADIAN CITY—Police are hunting down the suspects in the massacre of a family of three in Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Sur. Police said the incident happened on June 18 but learned about it only three days later. Supt. Ajijul Adam Taradji, Zamboanga del Sur police chief, identified the victims as Ireneo Unabia, his live-in partner Pablita Balele, and her children, Rolando, 8 and Sabina, 2. The decomposing bodies of Ireneo, Pablita and Rolando were found in a ravine, while that of Sabina was found inside their house. ***Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. SOURCE: **PAGASA**

Metro Manila HI 31° Lo 24°	**Baguio** HI 24° Lo 15°	**Tuguegarao** HI 35° Lo 22°	**Laoag** HI 34° Lo 25°
Clark Zone HI 30° Lo 23°	**Tagaytay** HI 30° Lo 21°	**Legazpi** HI 32° Lo 25°	**Calapan** HI 33° Lo 24°
Bacolod HI 31° Lo 24°	**Roxas** HI 31° Lo 25°	**Cebu** HI 30° Lo 24°	**Tacloban** HI 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos HI 32° Lo 24°	**Zamboanga** HI 31° Lo 24°	**Cagayan de Oro** HI 31° Lo 22°	**Davao** HI 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/02/01

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WTO-GATT to affect vegetable farmers

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Don't blame the weather and the leaf miner pest this time.

Gov. Raul Molintas said the vegetable industry in Benguet, called the "Salad Bowl of the Philippines," would collapse if the government keeps its commitments to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) that would open the domestic market to competition from foreign markets.

Molintas said the full implementation of GATT and WTO by 2005 would open the domestic market to imports of temperate vegetables from the country's more developed trading partners.

"We can impose tariffs as high as 100 percent now but by 2005, this can go no higher than 20 percent," Molintas said.

He said Benguet's vegetables were not in the list of restricted goods like rice and corn that are covered by subsidies. "Farmers have been pressing for controls or price stabilization but this is not possible because we cannot subsidize their production," he said.

"It should be market forces that will determine prices but the farmers will lose with the flood of imported products if the safety nets promised by government are not delivered on time," he said.

He estimated that 60 percent of Benguet's 322,000 farmers get their livelihood from vegetable farming.

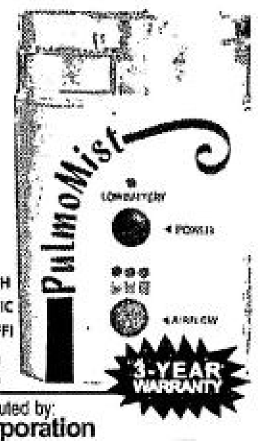
But Molintas said more could be affected by trade liberalization because the vegetable belt of the Cordillera extends to Benguet's neighboring provinces like Mt. Province and Nueva Vizcaya.

The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics said that based on studies in 1999, 4,218 hectares of land were devoted to potato production in Benguet and Mt. Province and 4,308 hectares to cabbage, broccoli and *wombok* (Chinese cabbage).

About 2,100 hectares are devoted solely to carrots in the two provinces.

The Department of Agriculture in the Cordillera estimates that for 2000, potato production was 115,840 metric tons; carrots, 69,440 MT; and cabbage, broccoli and *wombok* 93,390 MT.

Nathan Alcantara, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau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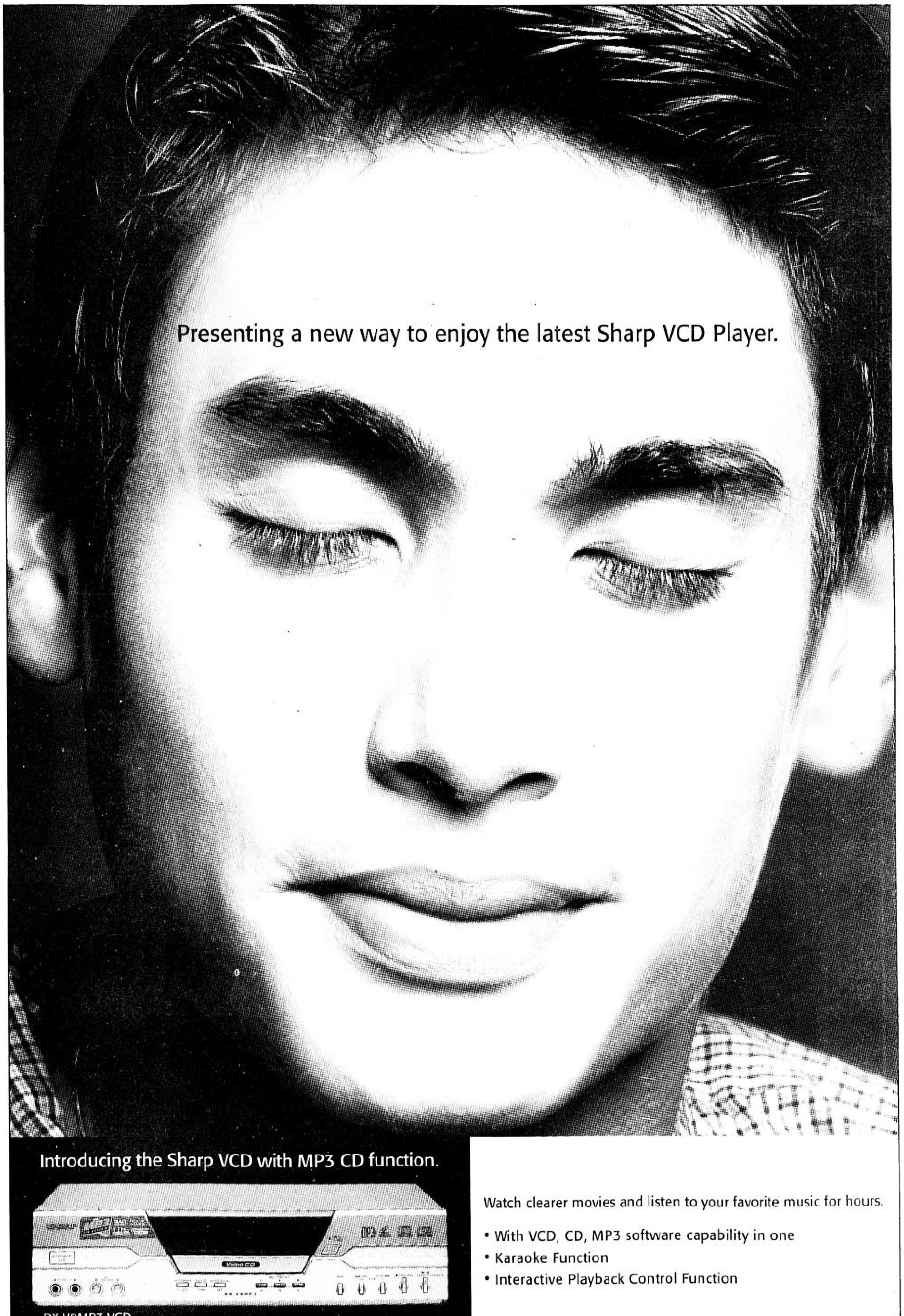
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Despite the ongoing hostage crisis in Basilan province and fears it has struck among residents in neighboring areas, people in Zamboanga City flock to the beach to celebrate the Feast of St. John the Baptist.

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"The Government's Agenda on Tuition Fee Matters"
Atty. Rafael P. M. Lotilla
Deputy Director General, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)

Luncheon Speaker
Dr. Ester A. Garcia
Chairman, Commission on Higher Education (CHED)

"Parents' Concerns on Tuition Fees and the Need for Quality Education"
Mr. Eric R. Musngi
President, Parents of University Students Organization (PUSO)
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Comelec annuls proclamation of Sulu winners

By NORALYN MUSTAFA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

JOLO, Sulu—This province is in the grip of tension again as the Commission on Elections ordered the annulment of the "premature" proclamation by the provincial board of canvassers (PBOC) of the alleged winning candidates for provincial seats.

The Comelec issued the order pending the resolution of petitions filed by the incumbent governor, Abdusakur Tan, and his partymates.

The order annulled the proclamation of the alleged winners, gubernatorial candidate Yusop Jikiri and the candidates for seats in the provincial board.

Tan, who ran under the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, asked the Comelec to declare a failure of elections in all precincts in Luuk, Parang and Indanan towns, in two petitions dated May 17 and 18.

Tan and his co-petitioners asked for the suspension of the canvassing and proclamation of the alleged winning candidates, reiterating their protest in an urgent motion on May 19.

Acting on the petition, the Comelec meeting *en banc* issued a resolution on May 21 ordering the PBOC to suspend proclamation of the winning candidates "for all elective provincial positions."

According to the Comelec, the order was faxed at 7 p.m. of the same day to the PBOC.

Despite the order, however, the PBOC headed by Comelec regional director Helen Aguila-Flores proclaimed Jikiri winner on May 23.

But in an *en banc* resolution issued June 20, the Comelec ordered the annulment of the proclamation, and directed the Comelec law department to investigate the same board for proceeding with the proclamation despite the suspension order.

Tan left for Manila on Wednesday to attend the initial hearing of the case on Thursday.

He said the Comelec would tackle the issue of annulment of the election results in the towns concerned and the conduct of the technical examination of the certificates of canvass.

"If the Commission finds these (the certificates of canvass) legitimate, then they can set aside the annulment of the proclamation," Tan said, even as he allayed fears of renewed hostilities between his camp and that of Jikiri.

"People should be made to understand that this is a matter of law. We have to follow certain procedures in such cases, but I would think their lawyers have explained this to them, so they should understand," he said.

"In any case, we will have to rely on our peace officers (in case of problems). I am very confident, and it is presumed, that these officers can very well take care of the situation, in Jolo and even the entire province," he said.

Jikiri is the former chief of staff of the Moro National Liberation Front members whose have been integrated into the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

He ran for the same post in the 1998 elections, but lost to Tan.

Jolo residents have expressed fears that in case of violent reactions to the annulment of Jikiri's proclamation from his followers, the integrees might align themselves with their former chief.

But integree-officers interviewed by the INQUIRER denied this, saying their loyalty remains with the government.

Bets' expense reports amuse Comelec execs

By ALEX PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau.

DUMAGUETE CITY—With only P150,000, a person could win for himself a seat in Congress, even if his opponent spends up to four times that amount.

Or one could spend P1.52 million in a bid for the governorship and still lose to a candidate who spent only P750,000.

Election officials found as "entertaining" the sworn statements submitted by congressional and provincial candidates in Negros Oriental regarding their expenses in the May 14 elections.

"For a politician, an oath means nothing," joked provincial election supervisor Rogelio Benjamin while looking at the list.

Reelected second district Rep. Emilio Macias II declared his expenses at P150,000, while his closest rival, former congressman Miguel Romero spent P609,800.

Other congressional aspirants in the district spent much less, with Bais City Mayor Francisco Villanueva declaring P97,643.10 in expenses and Gregorio Limatoc, P25,000.

Candidates for second congressional district were allowed to spend a maximum of P614,265, equivalent to P3 for each of the 204,755 voters.

When reached for comment, Macias stood by his sworn statement, saying he was not campaigning most of the time.

"You will recall that I was attacked by my opponents for using a government vehicle. I was using a government vehicle even during the campaign period because I was only seeing to it that my projects were being implemented," he explained.

Macias pointed out that he took his own vehicle only during campaign sorties.

"I also didn't have any poster. That's a big expense," Macias said.

Macias, who hovered over the second district in a helicopter on May 13, 14 and 15, said the use of the aircraft could have cost over P150,000.

He said he did not spend anything for it because it was "offered" to him by someone whom he did not want to name.

Macias also criticized the law requiring candidates to declare their expenses as "useless."

In the first district, Rep. Jacinto Paras won in his reelection bid by spending P320,000, while his closest rival, Jimalalud Vice Mayor Reynaldo Tuanda, spent P300,000.

Carmen Rodriguez claimed spending P180,000 while Danilo Roble spent P3,000. They were entitled to spend P513,567.

In the third district, lone candidate Herminio Teves still found himself spending P348,531. He was allowed to spend P438,471.

For the gubernatorial post, Gov. George Arnaiz won his reelection bid after spending P300,000 of his own money and P450,000 from contributions.

Arnaiz's opponent, Vice Gov. Edgar Teves, spent P1.52 million, nearly reaching the ceiling of P1,566,303.

Vice Governor-elect Jose Baldado spent P520,000; Melimore Saycon, P394,850 and Saleto Erames, P70,000.

Woman jumps off cliff at Mines View Park

BAGUIO CITY—A woman shocked promenading tourists and vendors at the Mines View Park when she jumped over a cliff overlooking Benguet's famous mine sites here Thursday.

Police said the woman, described as between 40 and 50 years old, landed on a rocky mountainside 200 feet below and succumbed to head and body injuries.

She was the first reported suicide case in the historic Mines View Park.

PO1 Phillip Sines of the city police said they have yet to ascertain why the woman jumped off the ridge.

Investigators who recovered the body 200 feet below described her as a "fair skinned woman with short hair who stands five feet."

She was wearing a multicolored duster and vest. Her body lies at the Baguio Funeral Homes.

In Bulacan, a 20-year-old chemistry student survived a fall from the fourth floor of the Bulacan State University in Malolos town Friday.

Marco Ramos, of Barangay Sto. Rosario, Malolos, is in critical condition after suffering from bone fractures.

Witnesses said Ramos went to the school building's roof and blindfolded himself before he jumped off the building.

Police said Ramos, a graduating student, was broken-hearted after his girlfriend refused to reconcile with him. ***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES SALUTES
THE BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES,
THE CHAMBER OF THRIFT BANKS,
AND THE RURAL BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES.

BANKING ON THE ENVIRONMENT

DBP IS PROUD TO PRESENT TO THE FILIPINO PUBLIC A MILESTONE IN OUR BANKING HISTORY.

A Joint Statement on the Environment and Sustainable Development

Believing that environment and sustainable development are mutual concerns and the common responsibility of the government, the private sector and all individuals and institutions, we, the members of the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), the Chamber of Thrift Banks (CTB), and the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP), declare our agreement and support for the following general principles:

1. Good Ecology is sound economics. Sustainable development, which is an important parameter of rational business management, can best be achieved in an atmosphere of self-regulation which is characterized by common environmental values and priorities. As key mobilizers of financial resources for practically all major economic activities, banks and other financial institutions can play an important role in sustainable development and environmental protection.

2. To be pro-environment is to be pro-development. The proactive approach to environmental management anticipates how further environmental degradation can be prevented. In keeping with this approach, environmental considerations will be integrated into our business policies and decisions, and day-to-day operations. Compliance with applicable environmental regulations and use of sound environmental practices are now considered part of modern corporate governance.

3. Environment and sustainable development are hallmarks of responsible individual, corporate, as well as global citizenship. Individuals and institutions, including banks, will be encouraged to undertake their own environmental education campaign, whereby best practices and research in environmental management are pursued and shared.

Consistent with our belief in the above general principles, we, the members of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, the Chamber of Thrift Banks, and the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines, agree on the following:

1. To encourage our individual members to develop and publish our own individual environmental policy and to develop products and services which will promote environmental protection and sustainable development; and

2. To foster openness and dialogue with our various publics and stakeholders with regard to the environment and sustainable development.

BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

CHAMBER OF THRIFT BANKS

RURAL BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Development Bank of the Philippines commits over ₱ 23 billion in resources to encourage and lead industries to adopt systems, technologies and practices that prevent pollution generation. To this end, its flagship credit programs — the Environmental Infrastructure Support Credit Program (EISCP2), Industrial Pollution Control Loan Project (IPCLP2) and other credit facilities, including technical assistance programs — are available to participating financial institutions and end-user clients.

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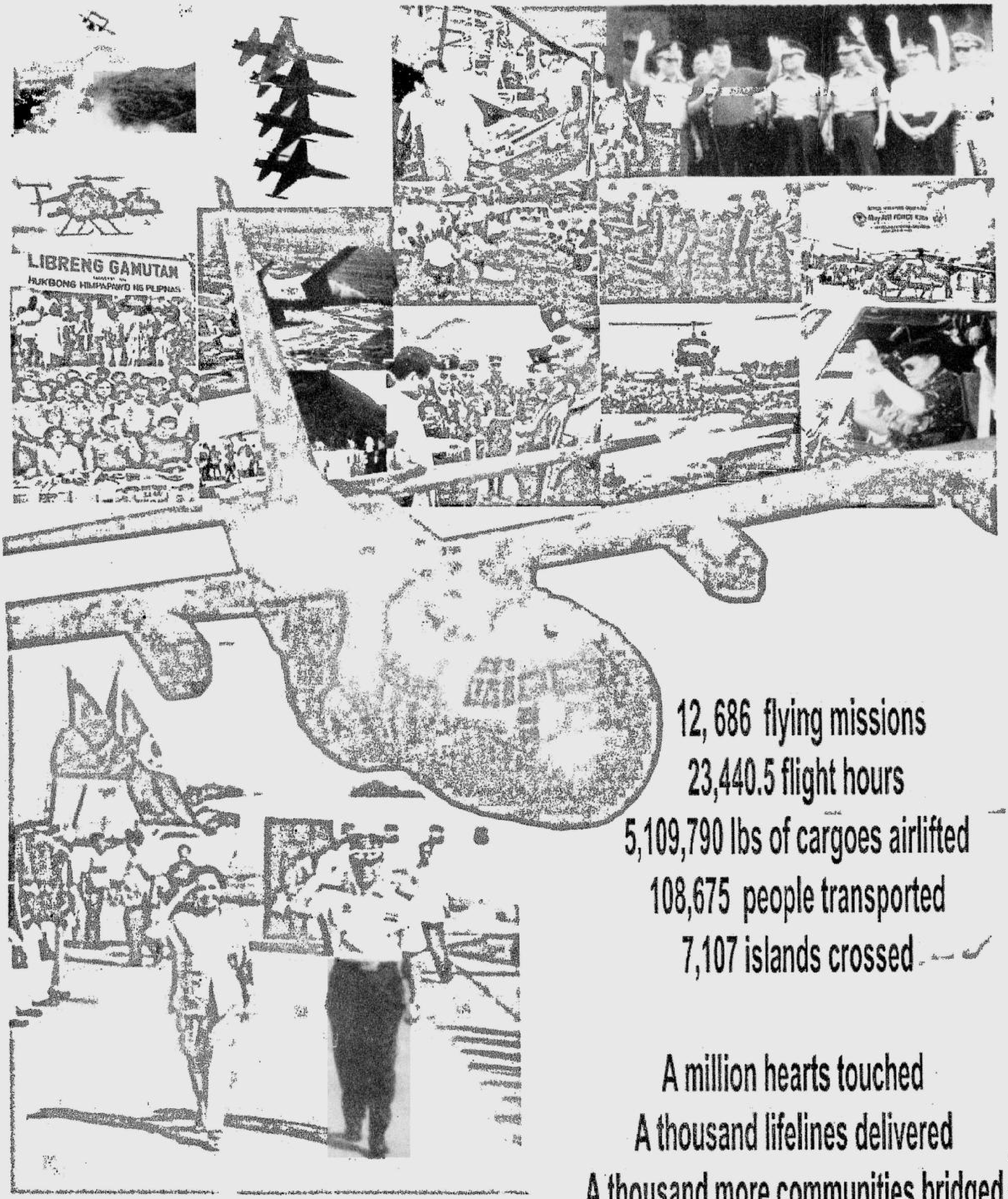
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23,440.5 flight hours
5,109,790 lbs of cargoes airlifted
108,675 people transported
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3 American hostages still alive–MILF

(From page A1)

Military civilian informants reported yesterday having sighted the gunmen and some of the captives, including the Burnhams, in the Sampinit mountain area in central Basilan.

The hostage's body has not been found despite the Abu Sayyaf claim that he was beheaded on June 12, but government and military officials believe the American is probably no longer alive.

Kabalu said that MILF officials were trying to "revalidate" the field reports of the supposed sightings.

Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya has said repeatedly that Sobero was beheaded. When relatives of the Californian appealed to the captors to tell them the truth, Sabaya insisted that the hostage was dead.

Kabalu said his rebel group initiated "our own monitoring" activities after the government allegedly ignored its request to send an MILF humanitarian mission to the remaining Dos Palmas captives.

"We only want to establish the real condition of the victims of the hostage-taking," he said in Filipino.

A father waits

A self-styled local negotiator said Saturday that Lalaine Chua was expected to be freed in 48 hours, or by today.

Later Saturday, the negotiator, who is working independently to obtain freedom for the hostages, said he was still assessing the situation surrounding the expected release of Chua and another hostage, Luis Bautista.

He said Lalaine's father, Benito Chua, arrived here Saturday following an arrangement with the negotiator "as to how to slip the girl from Basilan and Zamboanga City away from persistent reporters."

"Mr. Chua is always in contact with me to monitor the progress (of the negotiations. In fact, he brought some clothing for Lalaine so that as soon as she'll be freed, she can change into fresh clothes," the negotiator told the INQUIRER on Saturday night.

The elder Chua is purportedly staying with relatives in nearby Zamboanga City.

The negotiator said Benito plans to bring his daughter to Manila on a commercial flight. He denied an earlier report that two Lear jets at the Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga City have been on standby for Lalaine's expected release.

An official of the 3rd Tactical Operations Wing said the two Lear jets were used by military officials for official trips. Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling used one for a trip in Malaysia, the Air Force official said. Camiling arrived here yesterday.

The other jet was used by the "JUSMAG-US Attache" for a trip to Zamboanga, "but we are not privy to the purpose" of the visit, the Air Force official added.

Obstacles

The negotiator said there were several obstacles to the expected release of the two hostages.

"*Unang-una, mahirap kumilos kung masyadong guardado ang kilos mo* (It's hard to make your move when you're being closely watched) by the military, police and other opportunists. *Baka ma-sabotage yung kilos natin. Dapat maingat ka* (Our efforts could be sabotaged. You have to be careful)," he said.

He also said he was "short of mobilization funds," which was affecting the negotiations because there were "demands from the Abu Sayyaf or hostages" that he had to address immediately.

He claimed that he has already spent more than P50,000 for "contacts, couriers, transportation, medicines, toiletries, and even Selecta ice cream."

"It's not easy to dispatch goods to the area. It's very dangerous and I always need very brave, daring contacts and couriers to deliver (the things they request)," he said.

He also cited bad weather and the ongoing military operations as factors in the delay of the expected release.

The negotiator said the MILF, though not openly, is also "doing their own leg-work on the ground" to secure the release of the captives. But Kabalu denied that the MILF is involved in any hostage negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday that military officials had investigated reports that more of the hostages had been freed, but the officials had found no evidence of this.

The Abu Sayyaf faction in Basilan is still holding 23 hostages taken in three kidnapping incidents since May 27.

In Manila, an Army spokesperson confirmed that troops killed an Abu Sayyaf leader when he tried to grab a soldier's rifle during a raid on his home in Sulu.

The Abu Sayyaf leader, Abdul Muksan, was shot to death by Army soldiers during a firefight in his house in Jolo town on Friday, Maj. Alberto Gepilano said.

"When the smoke cleared, Commander Muksan lay dead and he was still holding the trigger of his rifle," he said.

Gepilano said Muksan was involved in the abduction of 21 people, including 10 Western vacationers, from the Sipadan diving resort in Malaysia last year. All but one of the hostages, a Filipino resort worker named Roland Ullah, have been freed, reportedly in exchange for huge ransoms paid by Libya.

Muksan carried a P1-million bounty on his head, Gepilano said. Residents tipped off the military about Muksan's presence in the village of Capitol Site.

Not all of RP

The President said her administration would embark on a global information campaign to correct the impression that law-and-order problems were engulfing all of the Philippines and to explain her decision to attack the Abu Sayyaf.

"We have to work on a communications campaign to let the world know that the Philippines is not all about the Abu Sayyaf, which operates in a couple of islands," she said in a statement yesterday.

The campaign will focus on the attractions of the country as an investment destination, including the presence of many English-speaking workers and reforms being undertaken by the Macapagal administration to improve governance and make it easier for investors to do business.

MNLF support?

As the Palace was sending out the statement, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva flew to Basilan to meet with commanders leading the military offensive against the Abu Sayyaf and inquire about logistical needs.

Army Col. Hermogenes Esperon, commander of one of three main groups undertaking the assault, told Villanueva the Abu Sayyaf bandits were being supported by the Moro National Liberation Front in Basilan, even though the MNLF had signed a ceasefire in September 1996.

Esperon cited a June 26 clash between government troops and a group the troops thought was made up entirely of Abu Sayyaf members in Masola village in Basilan.

Army soldiers killed nine rebels, two of whom turned out to be Abu Sayyaf members. The rest were MNLF members, said Southcom spokesperson Lt. Col. Danilo Servando. *With reports from AP and AFP*

Saucy . . .

(From page A1)

they also worked "twice as hard" while the fling was going on.

"Work should be erotic," the survey quoted one manager as saying. "It is a big part of your life, but if you go to work without having passion, it's not going to go very well."

According to the survey, favorite forms of flirtation include the "Is your mouse broken?" excuse for hand stroking (23 percent), saucy e-mails (19 percent) and suggestive post-it notes (17 percent).

Of the 2,500 workers questioned, 12 percent said they had gone out for a romantic drink with someone from work.

The same percentage said they regularly stayed later in the office to wait for their crush to finish work.

The lustiest employees appeared to be in Milan, where nearly a quarter said they had had some form of romance in the office.

Romans, famed for the flirtatiousness, were more demure, only 9 percent saying they practiced their charms during the workday. *Reuters*

Gas, kerosene prices up

(From page A1)

He earlier projected an average price increase of as much as 90 centavos per liter.

As a rule of thumb, local oil companies increase their prices by 35 centavos per liter every time the world crude prices go up by a dollar per barrel.

Local prices likewise tend to go up by 15 centavos per liter every time the dollar appreciates by a peso.

Every time one of the three big oil refiners raises its prices, the two others follow suit, including the smaller players.

It could not yet be ascertained what impact the latest round of fuel prices would have on basic commodities.

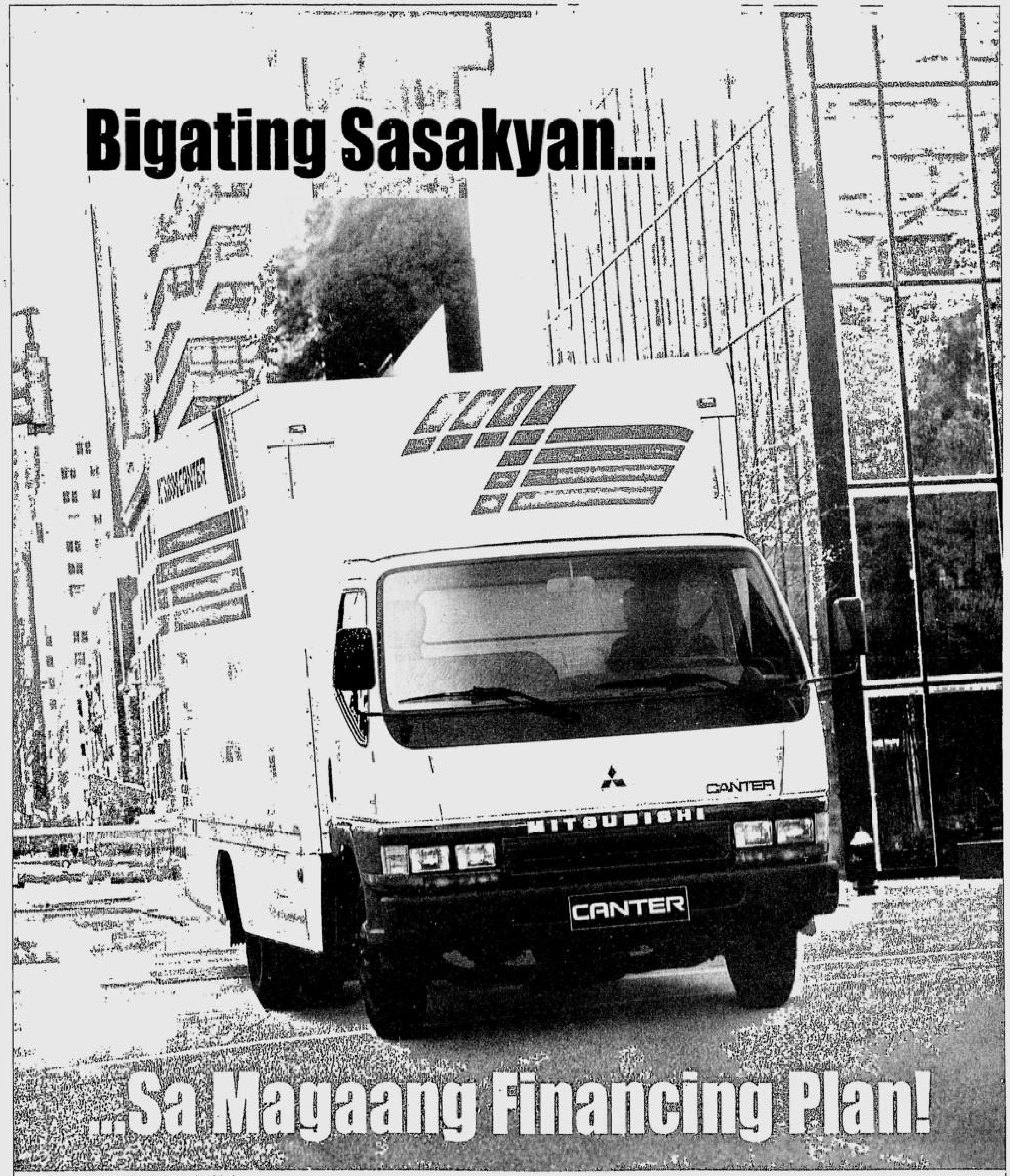
But militant groups are up in arms over Pilipinas Shell's 37-centavo price increase.

Members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Kilusang Mayo Uno and Akbayan plan to picket Pilipinas Shell's headquarters at 11 a.m. today.

Teodoro Casiño, Bayan secretary general, accused the oil companies of over-pricing.

"The increases are aimed not at recovering lost revenue from the plummeting peso-dollar exchange rate but at amassing superprofits," Casiño said in a press statement.

According to him, Bayan, KMU and Akbayan are demanding oil price controls and the scrapping of the Oil Deregulation Law that gave oil companies a free hand in determining pump prices.



Vehicle shown with optional cab spoiler and truck body.

Ngayon, mas madaling magkaroon ng inyong maaasahang sasakyang pang-negosyo, the Mitsubishi Canter FE515 at FE635. Matatag, praktikal at ngayon, may financing plan na magaan sa bulsa.

MODEL : CANTER FE515

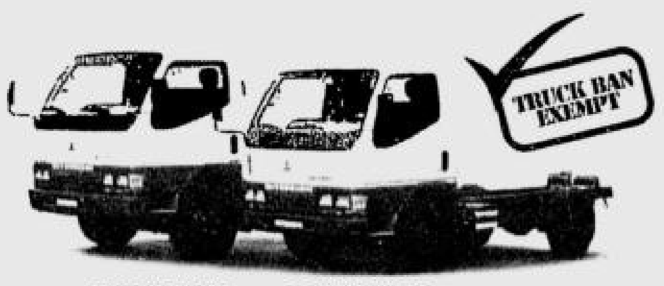
TERM		12	18	24	36	48	60
%	D/P	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
20.0%	134,000	48,990	33,899	27,032	19,409	15,646	14,170
25.0%	167,500	45,928	31,781	25,342	18,196	14,668	13,284
30.0%	201,000	42,866	29,662	23,653	16,983	13,690	12,399
35.0%	234,500	39,804	27,543	21,963	15,770	12,712	11,513
40.0%	268,000	36,743	25,425	20,274	14,557	11,735	10,627
45.0%	301,500	33,681	23,306	18,584	13,344	10,757	9,742
50.0%	335,000	30,619	21,187	16,895	12,131	9,779	8,856

MODEL : CANTER FE635

TERM		12	18	24	36	48	60
%	D/P	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
20.0%	149,000	54,474	37,694	30,057	21,582	17,398	15,756
25.0%	186,250	51,089	35,338	28,179	20,233	16,310	14,771
30.0%	223,500	47,665	32,982	26,300	18,884	15,223	13,786
35.0%	260,750	44,260	30,627	24,422	17,536	14,135	12,802
40.0%	298,000	40,856	28,271	22,543	16,187	13,048	11,817
45.0%	335,250	37,461	25,916	20,665	14,838	11,961	10,832
50.0%	372,500	34,048	23,560	18,786	13,489	10,873	9,847

*All financing plans are subject to bank approval.
**Not included truck body and optional cab spoiler.

PROMO ENDS JULY 31, 2001.



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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Ador dares Ping: Take lie detector test

(From page A1)

fessed participant in the kidnappings allegedly staged by the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), said he wanted Lacson and Senior Superintendents Cesar Mancao and Michael Rey Aquino to undergo the polygraph test with him.

"I want the test done in the same venue and if possible using the same machine to determine who is lying," Ador told the INQUIRER.

In a 23-page affidavit, Ador claimed Lacson had ordered the abduction of high-profile businessmen and personalities who played key roles in the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada.

He said the senator also ordered the assassination of prominent people, including Vice President Toefisto Guingona, former Ilocos Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

Lacson has denied knowing Ador, saying the PAOCTF had no record that the whistleblower had worked for his group.

Ador will likely take the lie detector test this morning if the authorities holding him in custody are allowed to borrow a polygraph machine from the National Bureau of Investigation.

Lacson, who concurrently headed the PAOCTF and the Philippine National Police until Jan. 20, alleged that his enemies were using Ador to discredit him even after he had won a seat in the Senate.

The senator has denied Ador's allegations.

Mancao and Aquino have also denied Ador's allegations that they were involved in the nefarious activities of the PACOTF.

"I am challenging them to take the polygraph test with me because I'm the one being pressed here. Sir Ping, be man enough," Ador said.

Ador said Lacson's denial was expected. "Of course, he will deny me. The PAOCTF has no record of me because I was involved in its illegal activities," he explained.

Bentain case

In the affidavit, Ador also said the PAOCTF was responsible for the disappearance and death of casino employee Edgar Bentain.

Ador said the PAOCTF abducted and murdered Bentain because the casino employee allegedly took a video of then presidential candidate Joseph Estrada playing baccarat at the casino at the Grand Boulevard Hotel in Manila.

The video was shown on national television during the 1998 election campaign. Lacson had worked with Estrada when the latter, then the Vice President, headed the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission.

Ador admitted serving as a surveillance man and ransom collector in the kidnappings that the PAOCTF had allegedly staged.

Last night, Ador said it was impossible for him to serve as a "*pakawala*" (loose cannon) of Lacson's nemesis, Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, as the senator had alleged. Berroya heads the PNP Intelligence Group.

"I have never met Berroya, and had never considered approaching him when I decided to come out with my exposé. I know that Lacson and Berroya are enemies and I don't want to be used by any one," Ador said in Filipino.

This week, the family of Bentain will go to Bacolor, Pampanga, to look for his remains following Ador's revelations that the PAOCTF had a hand in his death. ***(See related story in Across the Nation, Page A14.)***

Crucial meeting

Dante Jimenez, head of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, said he and Bentain's brother Edcel would meet with Ador to corroborate the ex-agent's claim that the PAOCTF, then under Lacson, buried Bentain alive in Pampanga.

Jimenez said the meeting would be crucial because it could further expose Lacson and those allegedly plotting to destabilize the Macapagal administration.

"Once we have confirmed Ador's statements, it would only be a matter of time before Lacson and company fall," he told the INQUIRER in an interview.

The VACC and the Equal Justice Movement believed in Ador's exposé that Lacson's PAOCTF had conducted several kidnappings, including the abduction and murder of Bentain, according to Jimenez.

Jimenez said the abduction and murder of Bentain was very similar to what happened to public relations man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

Ador disclosed that he participated in Bentain's kidnapping.

He said Bentain was sealed inside two drums and thrown into flowing lahar near a "long bridge in Bacolor."

Jimenez urged other former PAOCTF agents to come out in the open and identify those behind the series of kidnappings and alleged destabilization plot.

"We call on the people who may be instigated or used by the alleged plotters . . . to expose the plotters of this senseless violence and chaos against innocent civilians," Jimenez said in a press statement.

"(The plotters) are worse than the Abu Sayyaf bandits for they make a virtual mockery of the criminal justice system (and) legal institutions," Jimenez said.

Bigger Mayon explosion expected anytime

(From page A1)

crater area, allowing voluminous gases to vent out.

With these signs, alert level 5 remained hoisted, which means that explosive eruptions may still occur, resulting in considerable risk to areas within the 6-kilometer radius permanent danger zone.

People living within the 8-km extended danger zone in the southeast quadrant should be evacuated, the Phivolcs said, but if quiet conditions persisted, the agency might modify the area to a 7-km radius.

Laguerta said the instability of new deposits on the summit and upper slopes might produce secondary explosions and landslide-induced secondary pyroclastic flows and rockfalls within this zone.

He urged the people to avoid these areas.

"The public, therefore, is advised not to venture near river banks and low-lying areas to avoid unnecessary risks against these potentially destructive and life-threatening flows," the scientist said.

The forecast of more volcanic activity will likely prolong a nine-day old evacuation of people from farms and villages within an 8-kilometer danger zone around the mountain.

Decongestion

The number of evacuees packed in 31 emergency shelters decreased to 42,614 persons or 8,868 families after those housed at the Amtic Elementary School and the Tuburan Elementary School in Ligao decamped.

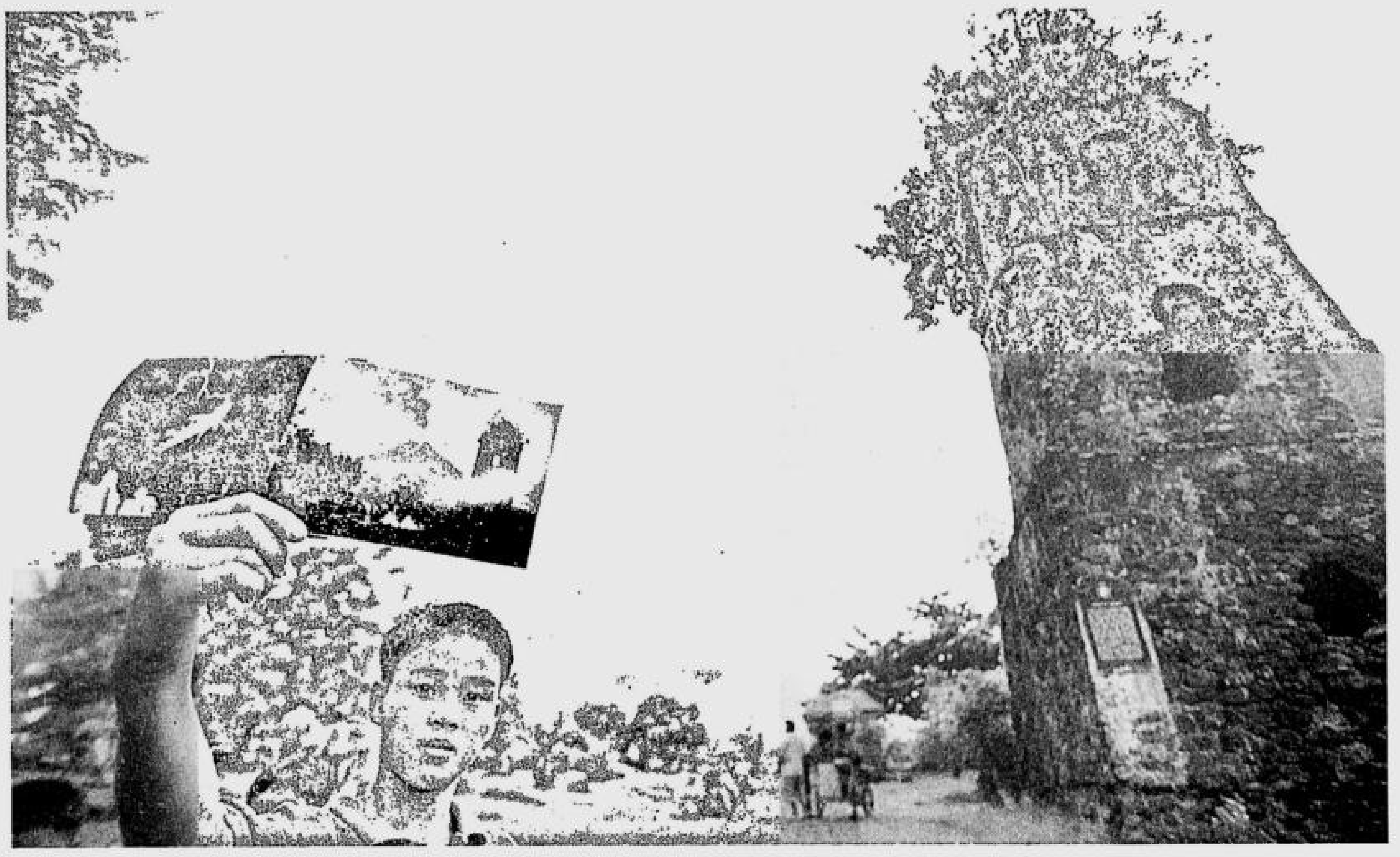
Disaster officials will use these centers, however, to decongest the Gogon Elementary School and the Albay Central School in Legazpi City, which have evacuation populations of 4,350 and 3,342 persons, respectively.

The move aims to check the further increase in acute respiratory and other illnesses brought about by congestion.

So far, one child has died of pneumonia, but relief officials said he was ill even before his family left their home.

Health regional director Gerardo V. Bayugo explained that the spread of respiratory disease was hastened by congested conditions.

The disease is generally transmissible directly by oral contact or droplet infections and indirectly by hands, handkerchiefs and respiratory discharges of infected persons, he said.



A BOY sells photographs of Mayon Volcano taken during its eruption last week at the Cagsawa Ruins Park in Daraga, Albay. EDWIN BACASMAS

Bayugo recommended a standard occupancy rate of 10 families per classroom.

The INQUIRER observed that up to 30 families stayed in one classroom at the onslaught of the calamity.

They sleep on cold, concrete floors. The few toilets and washrooms are clogged, with drinking water supply running low, according to officials.

A rapid assessment of camp facilities conducted daily by the DOH indicated poor provision of shelter in Camalig.

The risks at the camps, health officials said, could come from water, food, garbage and human waste.

More doctors

More doctors were sent to the evacuation camps yesterday to prevent a disease outbreak, according to the National Disaster Coordinating Council.

Health officials monitored about 240 cases of coughs, colds and other respiratory diseases, and 14 cases of diarrhea.

The incidence of "acute respiratory infections and common illnesses" has been rising, the NDCC said.

"Additional physicians have been deployed to the evacuation sites" to conduct "disease surveillance activities and validation of unusual occurrences in all evacuation centers," the NDCC said.

The construction of latrines, wash areas, kitchens, shallow wells and outdoor tents was being speeded up, officials said.

Water filtration

The DOH is making available a water filtration system to the San Jose Elementary School in Malilipot, Albay. The device can purify water at a rate of 10 cubic meters per hour, more than enough to cleanse water for the evacuation sites.

Water supply is low, especially in Legazpi.

Bayugo called for regular clean-up operations to destroy breeding sites of mosquitoes. Fogging operation only kills the adult mosquito, not the larvae, he said.

Only by destroying the breeding places will the larvae or "*kiti-kiti*" be killed, thus ending the cycle.

On June 24, Mayon blew ash 15 km into the air and shot red-hot boulders 600 meters high.

On Friday afternoon, it erupted twice, but with considerably less force, blasting ash just 2 km into the air.

In February last year, Mayon erupted, inflicting P214 million in agricultural damage and forcing 68,000 people to evacuate.

As of Friday, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor estimated the agricultural damage from the latest eruptions at P10 million.

Prefab schools

Education Secretary Raul S. Roco is eyeing the construction of prefabricated schoolhouses that can be used as evacuation centers during the eruptions and as classrooms during calm periods.

Roco, who visited Albay on Saturday, inspects schools being used as shelters for evacuees.

He said he would experiment on installing prefab schoolhouses that can be used as classrooms while the evacuees still occupy the rooms.

Later, he said, the schoolhouses would be used as evacuation centers should Mayon erupt again.

Each prefab school will have an area of 63 square meters and can be bought at less than P300,000 each, Roco said.

Equipped with a toilet, the school can be assembled in three weeks.

Roco said the prefab base could be constructed in two weeks and the walls and other components installed in five to seven days.

The education secretary said the schoolhouses could last for 20 years, but the department would still test the structures through its technical personnel.

One problem that Roco foresees is the capacity of the prefab schools to withstand typhoons. Bicol lies in the typhoon path where at least 20 typhoons pass every year.

Roco said the prefab schoolhouses in Albay were still being planned and the final decision to install them would be made after his inspection.

However, he said 10 prefab schoolhouses were now ready for installation at the Zamboanga High School.

Roco said should the schools' durability be proven to reach 20 years, these could be further replicated in other areas of the country.

He said the design of the prefab schoolhouses followed a standard sanitary requirement of what should a schoolhouse be—with a sanitary toilet that can be easily cleaned by elementary pupils.

Roco said the design could develop the collective sanitary management of the occupants.

Nobody would dare use the toilet properly and leave it stinking because everyone can identify who the last user is, he said. ***With reports from INQUIRER wires and Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

New . . .

(From page A1)

A V-150 armored vehicle from the SAF spearheaded the raid. With the element of surprise on their side, the police did not encounter opposition.

"When I entered the house, I saw men who were lying face down on the floor, already handcuffed and blindfolded," Seno related in Filipino.

He said that when he later went out of the house, he saw at the garage two L-300 vans. In front of one of the vehicles were then TMG chief Senior Supt. Francisco Zubia and then CIS chief Senior Supt. Romeo Acop and their bodyguards.

Post-operation

After the operation, the police returned to the PNP national headquarters in Quezon City, taking along with them the two L-300 vans and the gang members who were captured alive.

Seno and other Task Force Limbas operatives later retired to their quarters.

But at dawn of May 18, they were called on radio by then Insp. Abelardo Ramos, who told them: "Are you available? Go to the motorpool at the back of the TMG."

Seno and several other policemen, some in civilian clothes, waited for instructions for some time because the senior officers were then meeting on what to do with the Kuratong Baleleng members.

When Ramos came out of the TMG building, Seno asked him: "Sir what did they say?" Ramos replied that there would be "a scenario."

Seno said with apprehension: "Sir, there are several witnesses, the neighbors at Superville."

Ramos responded "I don't know. It's their orders. *Bahala sila* (It's up to them)."

After a short briefing, Seno, Ramos, SPO1 Wilmor Medes and another TMG member boarded one of the L-300 vans in which four of the Kuratong Baleleng members were placed. The four were blindfolded and their hands bound by packing tape.

The second L-300 followed. On board were then Chief Insp. Michael Ray Aquino, who was then Lacson's intelligence officer, his men and the seven other gang members.

The two vans, as well as marked and unmarked police cars, traveled toward Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

After passing the Commonwealth flyover, the cars stopped at the roadside and Seno and his group were ordered to disembark.

Shootout scenario

"It was here that the shootout scenario was held," Seno said.

"I remember that it was already getting bright so we had to move fast. We got away from the van. A vehicle came with police in it and they shot at the van," Seno said.

After a while, Seno said he saw Lacson on the scene "wearing decent clothes and eyeglasses on board his Lite-Ace and being interviewed by a reporter."

Seno said that upon Zubia's order, he had executed a sworn statement supporting the shoot-out account although he knew that "lying is against the law."

Earlier this year, Insp. Ismael Yu of the PNP-SAF, who was part of the Superville raid, executed a sworn statement saying that the Kuratong Baleleng members were indeed captured alive.

Ramos, who was with Seno from Camp Crame to Commonwealth, later corroborated Yu's statement.

Recanted

Over the past three years, four witnesses in the Kuratong Baleleng case, including two senior police officers, recanted their respective statements on the alleged summary executions of the suspected bank robbers.

Star witness SPO2 Eduardo de los Reyes left the DOJ's Witness Protection Program and moved to Canada in 1997.

In August 1998, SPO2 Corazon de la Cruz contradicted his earlier statement corroborating De los Reyes' testimony that the suspects were executed. He also left the Witness Protection program.

SC strikes middle ground in ruling on trial coverage

(From page A1)

rows their function to dissemination of news, and captures the tradition that defines the political powers and responsibilities of a free press.

If I am reading the high court's 8-6 ruling correctly without using legal jargon, the decision seeks to isolate the trial from public opinion pressures outside the Sandiganbayan—pressures that could easily transform the trial into a political circus, generating a lynch-mob reaction from groups unhappy with the Sandiganbayan's rulings.

The argument that the decision curtails the "right of the people to know" does not cut ice.

As pointed out by the *ponente*, Justice Jose Vitug, the decision sought to strike a balance between the right to know and the right to a fair trial.

It struck a middle ground between the "constitutional guarantees of freedom of the press and the right to public information, on the one hand, and the fundamental rights of the accused, on the other hand, along with the constitutional power of a court to control its proceedings in ensuring a fair and impartial trial."

"A public trial is not synonymous with a publicized trial," the court said. "It only implies that the court doors must be open to those who wish to come, sit in the available seats, conduct themselves with decorum and observe the trial process."

This means that reporters—whether from print or radio—are not barred from covering the trial and from reporting it according to hard facts and evidence introduced in the trial.

Not for public to judge

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez is not quite correct in saying that the decision denies the public the right "to see whether ex-President Estrada is guilty or not" and that "if we will only rely on reports of commentators, chances are they will be reporting a portion of their own perception only."

It is not for the public "to see" whether Estrada is guilty or not. That is the function of the courts.

It is even less accurate to say the public "will only rely on reports of commentators." The rules of the press are that trials are covered by reporters, not commentators and opinion writers postulating puerile opinions not founded on facts. Basic to this is the respect that the press must give to facts and evidence introduced in the trial.

Grandstanding

The Estradas applauded the decision, as usual, for the wrong reasons. Jinggoy Estrada said it would prevent "grandstanding" by prosecutors.

In both the impeachment trial and in the preliminary proceedings at the Sandiganbayan, defense lawyers and Estrada himself were no less immune to grandstanding and using the TV cameras to sway public opinion to their side.

The experience in the impeachment trial was clearly at the back of the minds of the justices, and of the public who followed the trial through TV.

The trial was a stage from which to galvanize public opinion, through television.

Apparently, the court does not want the theatrical atmosphere of the impeachment trial to be repeated in the Sandiganbayan.

The impeachment trial was a political trial more than it was a judicial trial, although the rules of court played an important part in the proceedings. Allowing TV coverage in that trial was consistent with the political milieu of the trial, a conviction from which would only remove Estrada from office, not send him to jail.

Circus environment

The high court indicated that it was not unaware of the role of TV in the impeachment trial of Estrada. "It must be conceded that television can work profound changes in the behavior of the people it focuses on," it pointed out.

In the impeachment trial, senatorial behavior was no doubt influenced by making points with an eye to the May mid-term elections, where a number of them stood for reelection. TV was a key medium for grandstanding.

The Supreme Court, in effect, removed the Sandiganbayan cases from the circus environment of the impeachment trial. The justices envisaged "a verdict that would come only after the presentation of credible evidence, testified to by unbiased witnesses, unswayed by any kind of pressure, whether open or subtle, in proceedings that are devoid of histrionics that might detract them from its basic aim to ferret veritable facts free from influence."

Calm trial

In an apparent pitch for political stability, the tribunal noted that the Sandiganbayan cases, flowing from the impeachment trial, provoked the "two conflicting phenomena of Edsa II and Edsa III."

The court warned: "Must these events be invited anew and risk the relative stability that has thus far been achieved?"

A calm trial, governed by evidence and the more rigorous assessment of evidence, could help cool the volatile political atmosphere that has been agitated by two political and constitutional crises from January to the May 1 "rebellion" of Estrada's followers.

The Estradas have been complaining they have not been given a fair trial in the impeachment case and even in the Sandiganbayan. This complaint has, of course, little basis in fact; Estrada's abortion of the trial is part of the explanation of the failure of impeachment.

Without TV coverage inside the court, Estrada may now have fewer excuses to allege unfair trial. But the absence of TV in the trial has another cutting edge: It will deprive him of a tool to manipulate the masses with his counterfeit "*Erap para sa mahirap*" sloganeering.

AN OPEN LETTER
TO HER EXCELLENCY
PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

In our earnest desire to assist your administration's governance in achieving success, we resort to this Open Letter to call your immediate attention to the current practices that impact adversely on government resources and seriously threaten the survival of the local construction industry.

The **PHILIPPINE CONSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION, INC. (PCA)** is deeply disturbed with the current government procurement practices for construction services on infrastructure works that are financed by multi-national financial institutions. History shows that the government is becoming more and more discriminatory by setting ultra-high prequalification standards, to the point of being unreasonable and unrealistic – a scheme to ensure that **NO FILIPINO** contractor would qualify to participate in the bids.

What is even more appalling is the fact that government agencies continue such practice despite statistics of the past two (2) years showing that the bids/tenders submitted by foreign firms are substantially higher than Approved Agency Estimates (AAE), especially so when Filipino contractors are excluded from the arena of competition.

One case in point is the C-5/Ortigas Avenue Interchange Project (Package II) of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) financed by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). Despite their continued good performances over the decades, the top four (4) Filipino Contractors, namely: D. M. Consunji, Inc. (DMCI), EEI Corporation, J. H. Pajara Construction and F.F. Cruz & Co., were all disqualified and this was so because the standards set were so unreasonably high and no longer commensurate with actual requirements of the project.

F. F. Cruz & Co., the contractor which accomplished Package 1 of the same project ahead of schedule, was disqualified allegedly because it is technically incapable of executing Package II. This, the government agency did despite the fact that this Filipino contractor's equipment yard is just right beside the project site, a built-in advantage which could be an assurance of lesser mobilization cost, among others.

The fact that out of the nine (9) prequalified foreign construction firms, only two (2) submitted their bids is highly suspect, and even more so given the fact that the Second Envelope which contains the Financial Proposal was opened without even completing a thorough evaluation of the contents of the First Envelope which contains the Technical Proposal. That is highly anomalous and a clear violation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of P.D. 1594.

Allowing the award of government projects to the foreign bidder whose bid is Nine Hundred Twenty Five Million Pesos (P925,000,000.00) or 28% **higher** than AAE when Filipino contractors have the capability of doing the project at cost of not more than Five Hundred Fifty Million Pesos (P550,000,000.00) or 24% **lower** than AAE, is an act grossly disadvantageous to the government punishable under Sec. 3 (e) of R.A. 3019.

Madame President, we urge you, especially in these times of want, to protect the Filipino people – the ultimate payor of the government projects, as we call on you to put a stop to such government practice which deprives the local construction industry a level playing field, a true opportunity for fair competition and real transparency.

PHILIPPINE CONSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION, INC. (PCA)

By:

JUSTO E. MANALO
President

Negros trips Laguna; Marlins score at last

Games Wednesday
RMC Gym (Davao)
3:00 p.m.—Batangas vs Davao
San Luis Complex (Laguna)
5:30 p.m.—Nueva Ecija vs Laguna

By Roy Luarca

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Egay Ignacio sparkled at the right moment and John Ferriols proved steady till the end as the Negros Slashers tripped the FedEx Laguna Lakers, 105-93, in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase last night.

The reedy Ignacio, a former Laker himself, poured nine points and the beefy Ferriols, the 1998 MVP, six in the Slashers' fourth quarter surge that stopped the rallying Lakers on their tracks, 98-84, at the San Luis Sports Complex here.

Negros thus halted its two-game skid and gained a share of the lead with idle Andok's San Juan at 6-2, midway of the elimination round.

FedEx Laguna, which sapped its strength recovering from a 22-point deficit at the start of the second quarter, fell to 2-3.

Coach Robert Sison said his players went into the game thoroughly motivated after their surprise defeat to the Davao Eagles last Friday.

Ferriols, as usual, did his part with 19 points aside from helping limit Laker Jeffrey Flowers to 21 points.

Earlier, Bong Alvarez delivered the goods for the Socsargen Marlins as they finally broke into the win column with a 101-85 drubbing of the Eagles.

Repeatedly piercing the loose Eagles defense, Alvarez fired a game-high 32 points, grabbed seven rebounds, issued seven assists and had four steals to lead the Marlins to their first win after six straight losses.

"I'm very happy. It is as if we've won the championship," said Alvarez, who said he doesn't want to fail the confidence being given him by coach Boyzie Zamar.

Teaming up with Aldrich Reyes, Alvarez gave the Marlins two 19-point spreads, the last at 86-67, early in the fourth quarter.

Bong Marata sparked a brief rally that saw the Eagles, who also tote a 1-6 card, threaten at 88-80.

The scores:

SOCSARGEN 101—Alvarez 32, Reyes 17, Teng 14, Co 13, Bade 13, Echavez 5, Sanots 4, De Jesus 3, Natividad 0, Salvador 0, Malabanan 0, Flores 0.

DAVAO 85—Marata 15, Callao 15, Simon 14, Almonte 12, Manigo 12, Bernardo 6, Concha 4, Menor 2, Daja 0.

Quarters; 25-18, 51-45, 78-63, 101-85.

PASIG BILLIARDS

PasigCity Mayor Vicente P. Eusebio (middle) hits the ceremonial ball signaling the start of the 1st Soledad Eusebio 9-Ball Billiards at the Pasig City Sports Center recently. Looking on are cue masters Efren "Bata" Reyes (left) and Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat. Some 30 participants saw action in the event that was part of the week-long activities in time for the celebration of the 428th Araw ng Pasig today, July 2.

PBA CUP

SMB nears Final 4

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(Philsports)
5:15 p.m.—Shell vs Sta. Lucia
7:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN Miguel Beer blasted Tanduay Gold last night, 95-83, to occupy the top spot and move just a win short of making the Final Four in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Imposing their edge over the Rhummasters in all departments, the Beermen pulled away to as many as 20 points and were never threatened throughout to up their card to 5-2, while dealing Tanduay's fourth loss in six games.

The method with which San Miguel fashioned out the victory gave a hint on how the Beermen would perform in the latter part of the elimination.

The Beermen not only finished off the Rhummasters methodically — taking advantage of Tanduay's decimated lineup and spotty game-plan to the hilt — they were also able to overcome probably the only glitch in their game, that is being error-prone.

"We did pretty well in terms of not making too much turnovers," said SMB coach Jong Uichico, whose team tops the league in errors with an average of 20.3 per game.

Last night, SMB only yielded the ball 13 times as against Tanduay's 17.

Nate Johnson also made 25 points and 15 rebounds to spearhead the Beermen's demolition job, which became apparent as early as in the first period when Danny Ildefonso flung a three-pointer that bent the quarter buzzer.

"We thought of this game as a must win, something we can't afford to lose," said Uichico as if San Miguel wasn't among the leaders.

Batang Red Bull clobbered Pop Cola, 95-79, in the second game to tally its fourth win in six games and tie Alaska Milk at second spot. The Panthers slumped to 3-3.

Scores:

SMB 95—Johnson 25, Seigle 24, Ildefonso 20, Lago 9, Belasco 8, Abuda 6, Racela 2, Pena 1.

TANDUAY 83—Freeman 28, Cariaso 21, Hontiveros 12, Balingit 10, Realubit 6, Locsin 2, Pumaren 2, Cantonjos 2, Webb 0.

Quarters: 30-20, 53-39, 73-61, 95-83.

SPORTSWATCH

Aventajado to meet Dayrit

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee chair Robert Aventajado yesterday told athletics chief Go Teng Kok and his supporters that their grievances should be elevated to the POC general assembly and "let the majority decide." Aventajado talked with Go and at least 13 other national sports association officials over the weekend and was appraised of their grievances against the POC which Go's group said have left the sporting community restive and in disarray. Aventajado said he would sit down with POC president Celso Dayrit so the issues raised by Go and other NSA officials could be tackled in the next general assembly meeting on July 25. Aventajado added the POC should "open lines of communications with NSAs to hear their side."

UAAP: Falcons underdogs anew

WHEN the 64th season of the UAAP basketball tournament unfolds on July 14 at the Araneta Coliseum, Adamson University will be without last year's stalwarts Joshua Ramirez, Emil Malana, Bruce Lee, Chris Eusebio and Noel Domingo. The Falcons, the league's whipping boys in the last four years, are parading an almost neophyte lineup consisting of 11 rookies and just five holdovers from last year's squad. "We're rebuilding right now," said Adamson second-year coach Luigi Trillo, whose team lost all of its 14 games last season and has just won twice in 42 games the last three years. The Falcons won six of their nine games in the recent Fr. Martin Cup, beating the likes of PCU and Ateneo's second team. Had they won one more game, they would have advanced to the semifinals.

Marawi netter reaches final

VALENCIA, Bukidnon—Duma Boloto of Marawi crushed Rocky Solis 6-0, 6-2 to arrange a titular showdown with Jessie Gorillo for the boys' 16-under division title I the Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop here Saturday. Gorillo pounded his way past Milmar Hao-hao 6-4, 7-5 in the Milo netfest organized by the Children's tennis Workshop and supported by official outfitter Adidas and PTV-4 Saturday weekly show Sports Kids. /In the girls' 14-under bracket, Ara Micayabas regained her composure in time for a 6-2, 0-6, 6-2 victory, while Anacel Salomon won the big points en route to a 6-4, 6-3 win over Grace Ann Nivalvos.

Favorites rip Wimby opponents

WIMBLEDON, England—Venus Williams and Lindsay Davenport have won the last two Wimbledon championships and are heading toward a semifinal showdown this year.

Williams, the defending champ, beat Elena Likhovtseva 6-2, 6-2 in Saturday's third round, while 1999 winner Davenport eliminated Patty Schnyder 6-2, 6-3.

Both Americans have been dominant in three straight-set victories, Williams losing just 14 games and Davenport 17.

Andre Agassi, seeded second behind seven-time champion Pete Sampras, hasn't lost a set either and advanced to the fourth round with a swift 6-3, 6-1, 6-1 win over Nicholas Massu of Chile.

The players have Sunday off, the only day in the fortnight with no action before the 16 men and 16 women still in contention all play Monday.

And a number of women.

Still around are Williams (seeded second), Davenport (third), Jennifer Capriati (fourth) and Serena Williams (fifth). Top-seeded Martina Hingis lost in the first round.

Venus, who beat Davenport in last year's final here, served five double faults and was not at her peak but easily defeated her 29th-seeded opponent from Russia. *AP*

GOLFWATCH

Colin 3 ahead

CORK, Ireland—Colin Montgomerie stretched his lead to three shots over Australian Adam Scott with a 3-under-par 68 in the third round of the Irish Open at Fota Island Saturday. Two ahead at the start of the round, Montgomerie birdied the 4th, 5th and 6th holes to lead by four. But Scott, who made seven birdies in a 66, drew level with him before bogeys at the two par-5s on the back nine, the 10th and 18th, dragged him back. Montgomerie also bogeyed the 10th and the 13th, but three birdies on the back nine gave him a 54-hole total of 13-under 200. Scott is second on 203 and has his eye on Monty. There is a three-way tie for third place on 205 between Gary Emerson (67) and Anthony Wall (71) of England, and Fredrik Henge (70) of Sweden. *AP*

Kane, Kerr up

ABSECON, New Jersey—Cristie Kerr and Lorie Kane turned in solid, error-free rounds and shared the lead at 9-under-par 133 heading into the final round of the ShopRite LPGA Classic. Playing in withering heat on Saturday, Kerr shot a 5-under 66 and Kane had a 68 in the second round of the dlrs 1.2 million tournament. Two-time champion Betsy King was one shot back after a 69, while Marisa Baena and first-round leader Pat Hurst were at 135. The 23-year-old Kerr, whose first professional tournament was the 1996 ShopRite Classic, used solid putting to make up for mediocre tee shots en route to eight birdies on the 5,506-meter (6,051-yard) Marriott Seaview Resort course. On the 462-meter (508-yard) 18th she hit into a bunker with her second shot but got within 3 meters (10 feet) of the pin and then made the putt for a birdie. *AP*

Golfer dies

EDMONTON, Alberta—Lewis Chitengwa, a Zimbabwean golf player who had complained of a high fever and withdrew from a tournament Saturday, died in hospital, according to the Canadian Professional Golf Tour. No other details were released, pending notification of the 26-year-old's family. He was sponsored by PGA Tour star Nick Price, also a native of Zimbabwe. *AP*

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Silver Story suffers shock loss

UPSET rocked yesterday's racing program at the Santa Ana Park when hot Triple Crown favorite Silver Story was upset by longshot Sonata in a winners' division race ran under driving rain. Sources said Silver Story does not run well under such conditions. Sonata, who was handled by veteran Joe Noel Camu, beat the JB Hernandez-ridden Silver Story by a length. Winning time over 1,450 meters was 1:31.4 (16-24-24.27.5).

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Ralf faster than brod Michael

MAGNY-COURS, France—Ralf Schumacher was in position to push his older brother around Sunday in the French Grand Prix. By winning the first pole of his Formula One career in qualifying Saturday, Ralf earned a car-length advantage on the staggered grid. He intends to keep it, just the way Michael did at the start of his victory last Sunday, when he forced Ralf to the edge of the asphalt in the European Grand Prix. *AP*

Casas wins 86th RP Open by 5 shots

Cantada donates ₱.2M of his prize to Mayon victims

THE WINNERS:
282—C. Casas 70-71-70-71 (P1.5M)
287—D. Zarate 74-70-74-69 P1.0M)
288—D. Gleeson 70-70-74-74 (P .6M)
289—G. Cantada 70-71-74-74 (P .5M)
292—R. Pagunsan 75-74-71-72 (P.4M)

BY AL S. MENDOZA
Sports Editor

CASSIUS Casas, the almost forgotten contender, won the 86th Philippine Open yesterday in style, building a lead at the clubhouse turn so huge his chief rivals were reduced to fighting for second.

Casas, whose best Open finish was third in 1995, was simply devastating, playing as though he was making a statement.

The 34-year-old Casas finished with a 1-under-par 71, completing a remarkable string of four sub-par rounds fashioned out under the most trying conditions since the fabled Wack Wack East got battered by rains four days in a row.

It made him an instant millionaire, pocketing P1,583,650 in the P9.5 tournament co-presented by Casino Filipino and San Miguel Beer.

With his 6-under-par 282 total, including his 70-71-70 previously, Casas won by 5 strokes over Danny Zarate, who sneaked in a 69=287 to overtake ertswhile leader David Gleeson of Australia and sentimental favorite Gerard Cantada.

Zarate sizzles

The 35-year-old Zarate, trailing Gleeson by 4 at the start of the day and Cantada by 3, sizzled coming home with a 33 on 3 birdies, capping it with a 3 on the par-4 18th. He took home P1,045,000, his biggest paycheck ever.

Gleeson shoved Cantada out of third with a birdie on the par-3 17th as the duo wound up with similar 74s in the series that saw none of the 161 starters win the Mitsubishi Lancer staked as a hole-in-one prize.

Gleeson, 23, returned a 288 worth P589,000, missing a 4-foot birdie on 18 that would have tied him for second with Zarate. Cantada had a 289 for P475,000, easily the biggest pot ever won by a rookie pro in the fabled Open.

Up by 3 over his closest pursuer at the start of the day, Casas erected a 5-shot lead over his flightmates Gleeson and a 6-shot margin over Cantada en route to capturing his most important victory since turning pro in 1992.

The victory was made more memorable by the fact that it was at Wack Wack where Casas made his professional debut in 1992, winning $57,000 in topping a Skins Game against the legendary Gary Player.

"This means a lot to my confidence," said Casas, who ended a long drought spanning almost two years. "I wore a red shirt for the first time in a final round, having heard of the luck it brings to Tiger Woods."

Win running away

Casas birdied No. 5 to lead Gleeson and Cantada by 4 shots. He padded his margin to 5 over Gleeson and six over Cantada with another birdie on the par-3 7th, a margin he maintained up to the 12th.

After firing yet another birdie on 13, Casas was 7 shots ahead of Gleeson and 6 on Cantada, coasting along from there to win running away.

"When Gleeson 3-putted the first hole, I became relaxed," said Casas. "And then I felt it was mine when I birdied the fifth."

The closest Cantada got to Casas was at 2, when Cantada birdied No. 3 and then Casas bogeyed No. 4. But then, Casas got back quickly on track when he birdied No. 5, which both Gleeson and Cantada bogeyed.

For Casas, it was almost a joyride at the park from there.

Casas, whose restructured backswing finally hitting paydirt, stopped Gleeson from becoming the 6th Australian to win the Open in a performance that recalled his smashing Skins debut as a pro in 1992.

With his victory, Casas became the 13th Filipino winner since the 1913 inaugurals of the well-loved Open won by American by J.R.H. Mason at the old Manila Golf Club then situated in Malabon.

"He played terrific golf and he deserves to win," said Cantada of Casas.

Bathed in glory

But if Casas won in style, Cantada bowed out bathed in glory.

The 24-year-old Cantada, playing in his first professional tournament, said he was donating P200,000 of his prize to the victims of the Mayon Volcano eruption.

"The rest, I am spending for six junior golfers bound for the Jack Newton tournament in Australia this August," said Cantada, who was himself a jungolf standout after learning the game at the age of 7 at Wack Wack.

The gesture all the more endeared Cantada to his followers yesterday, who were now fondly called Cantada's Crowd simply because they rooted for Wack Wack's favorite son since Day One.

Cantada's fourth-place finish was not something to sneeze at, considering there were 161 starters, 77 of them foreigners from 17 countries.

The clubhouse talk still centered on Cantada after the trophies had long been awarded to the winners.

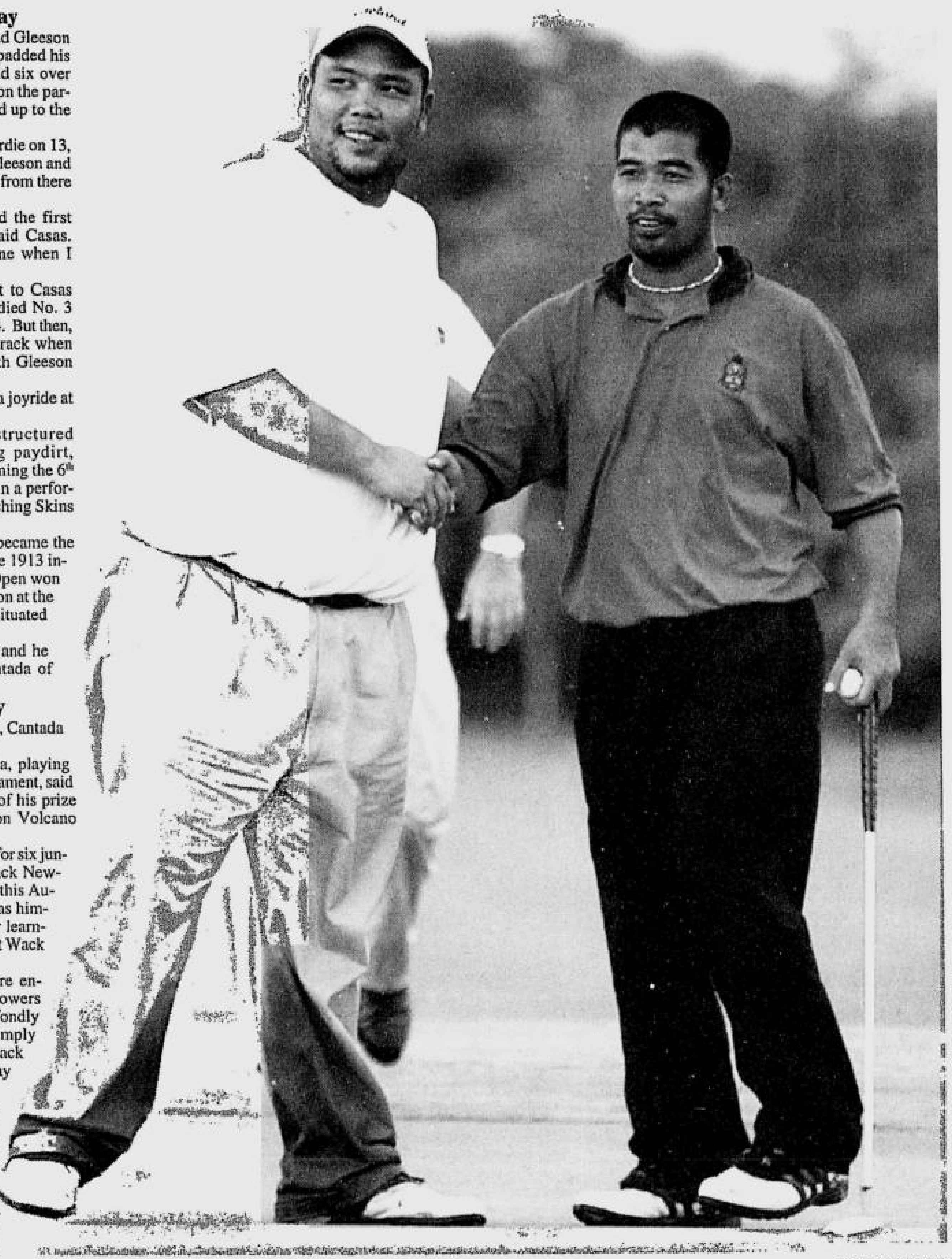
"Truly, Gerard is one of a kind," said a grizzled male Wack Wacker, sipping ice-cold tea at the clubhouse by his lonesome, watching the sun about to set in. "He is ours, he is a Wack Wack treasure."

In the battle for low amateur honors, Angelo Que beat Jerome Delariarte in a three-hole playoff from the 16th.

The 22-year-old Que, the co-leader in the first round, finished with a 75 to Delariarte's 72. But Delariarte double-bogeyed the 16th to Que's birdie. Que next made par-par to Delariarte's bogey-par.

The NGAP-organized tournament was backed by, among others, Mitsubishi Motors, The Herma Group, Hope Luxury Cigarettes, Unilab, Metrobank, Philtec Label, Mizuno, Wallem Shipping, PLDT, Unilever, Citgo, Cinnabon, U-Bix, Electrobus, Bingo Bonanza, Riviera GCC, Citgo, Citra Tollways, Shoemart, Philippine Golf Foundation, Rudy Project and Caffe Appassionato.

Other scores:
293—Pucay, Mars (Phi) 76-73-72-72
294—Dawes, Jason (Aus) 74-72-71-77
294—Gibson, Rick (Can) 74-72-74-74
296—Delos Santos, Denny (Phi) 72-75-74-75
297—Cruz, Dan (Phi) 79-70-77-71
297—Rosales, Gerald (Phi) 80-72-69-76
297—Bransdon, David (Aus) 73-70-76-78
298—Lincoln, Bobby (Sa) 76-75-74-73
298—Del Olmo, Pablo (Mex) 69-78-74-77
298—Lam, Chi Bing (Sin) 74-74-72-78
298—Cuello, Rodrigo (Phi) 76-71-75-76
299—Nordberg, Olle (Swe) 75-75-75-74
299—Fung, Derek (HK) 72-75-75-77
299—Lee, Lien Fu (Ctpe) 74-76-74-75
300—Chia, Danny (Mal) 76-76-73-75
300—Oulet, Dominique (HK) 77-74-72-77
300—Riley, Paul (Aus) 74-72-76-78
300—Ponce,Rafael (Ecu) 75-77-73-75
300—Lin, Chien Bing (CTPE) 75-77-70-78
301—Ababa, Cesar (Phi) 75-75-77-74
301—Sastuil, Ruben (Phi) 73-73-79-76
301—Villaroman, Carlto (Phi) 76-77-74-74
301—OO, Zaw Paing (Mya) 76-73-76-76
302—Pactolerin, Robert (Phi) 74-74-79-75
302—Tseng, Kuo Chang (Ctpe) 78-75-72-77
302—Van Rensberg, Nico (SA) 76-74-77-75
302—Etherington, Michael (Aus) 76-73-77-76
302—Kennedy, Brad (Aus) 76-76-73-77
302—Lascuna, Tony Jr. (Phi) 73-74-78-77
302—Rempojo, Lito (Phi) 75-75-73-79
303—Bain Ross (Scot) 75-76-77-75
304—Yoshida, Hirononi (Jpn) 76-7-80-753
304—Willersdorf, Danny (Aus) 75-72-80-77
304—Estrera, Edwin (Phi) 72-79-76-77
304—Magada, Benjie (Phi) 73-77-76-78
304—Toribio, Jess (Phi) 76-75-76-77
304—Ho,Chia Feng (Ctpe) 76-75-73-80
304—Meeks, Aaron (USA) 75-75-75-79



ERNIE SARMIENTO

CASAS (right) gets a congratulatory handshake from Cantada after they holed out on the 18th.

Cassius revives career

BY JONG ARCANO

THERE'S been too much fuss with the way Cassius Casas is handling his career.

That he's not as disciplined as a Frankie Miñoza, not as ambitious as a Gerald Rosales and well, not as virtuous as Mr. Clean.

If his becoming the Philippine Open champion yesterday at Wack Wack east doesn't do justice to his happy-go-lucky ways, then the other local pros would have to start to figuring out what's the real payback for clean living.

The thing is, Casas still spends a lot of time working on his game despite his lifestyle. Some personal problems may have gotten in the way but there's no question about his reputation as one of the best ball-strikers this side of Planet Golf.

For almost a year, Casas went through rough times. He barely missed qualifying for the US PGA Tour in September then lost sponsorships with the local Callaway distributor, Adidas and Philippine Airlines.

He also played in three legs of the Philippine Tour but didn't win any of them. Something that pricked his ego so badly was when he was denied one of the two slots for the Japan Open which Cassius feels he truly deserves.

The Southwoods pro sought the help of Bong Lopez to re-structure his swing and in no time, he got back his accuracy and self-esteem.

"This victory should put things back to order for Cassius. It's been quite a struggling season for him and it couldn't have come at a much better time," said IMG official Boy Blue Ocampo.

And for the first time in his career, Casas tried to woo the charm of Lady Luck with a red shirt and black pants outfit ala-Tiger Woods in the final round of the Open yesterday.

It paid off. He was paid P1.583 million.

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TENNIS: Wimbledon Week 1 Highlights at 8 a.m. (r – 7 p.m.), Day 6, Third Round at 2:30 p.m. (r), Day 7, Round of 16 at 8 p.m. on Star Sports

ATP Tennis Show at 1:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

MOTOR SPORTS: CART Pole Qualifying (Cleveland) at 7 a.m. on ESPN

Race Day, French Grand Prix at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

2001 F1 World Championships - French Grand Prix at 11:45 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Chequered Flag - French Grand Prix at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Motorsport Asia at 12:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

CART Grand Prix of Cleveland at 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN

GOLF: PGA Canon Greater Hartford Open, First Round at 9 a.m. (r), Final Round at 5 p.m. on Star Sports

POC backs Manny

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE is taking a hands-off stance in the Basketball Association of the Philippines leadership row.

Instead, POC president Celso Dayrit said the Olympic body would let sportsman-businessman top honcho Manny Pangilinan enter the picture and mediate between Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat and Quinteliano "Tiny" Literal.

Puyat and Literal were supposed to hold a meeting tentatively set for today.

Pangilinan, who was elected chair in Puyat's BAP, offered his services in order for both camps to bury the hatchet that would eventually lift the International Basketball Federation suspension on the BAP. *June Navarro*

RP teams to Taiwan, China

THE BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines is sending two teams—its Asian National University champion and the national women's team—to Taiwan and China, respectively, next week as part of its commitment toward uplifting the sport.

First to go on July 8 is the St. Francis of Assisi team which will represent the Philippines in the six-nation Chinese-Taipei Sports Camp where the Doves will be pitted against under-22 teams from the hosts, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia among others.

"This is a great opportunity for our recent Asian University champions to further hone their talent," said BAP president Quinteliano "Tiny" Literal.

The invitation to join the Sports Camp slated on July 9-15 was sent out by Chinese-Taipei Basketball Association (CTBA) secretary general David Yu and his deputy Wang Jen Sen to Literal and his sec-gen Graham Lim.

Delegation head of the Philippine teams is BAP regional director Dr. Lucrecio Calo with Art Onas acting as team manager. Coach of the Doves is Gabby Velasco.

Next to leave is the women's national basketball team which is slated to take part in the Shanghai Friendship Games.

There, the RP cagebelles will be touring the different schools of the city to play a series of games against China's top collegiate teams.

F3 CHALLENGE

British Mark Goddard of Ghlasports (right) and Jojo Silverio of Standard Insurance-Team Tom's are shown in action during the third round of the Asian Formula 3 Challenge at the Subic International Raceway recently. The thrilling races will be shown over CNBC Sports and ABC 5 on July 8. For inquiries, call Kart 1 Media Productions at tel. 551-8107.

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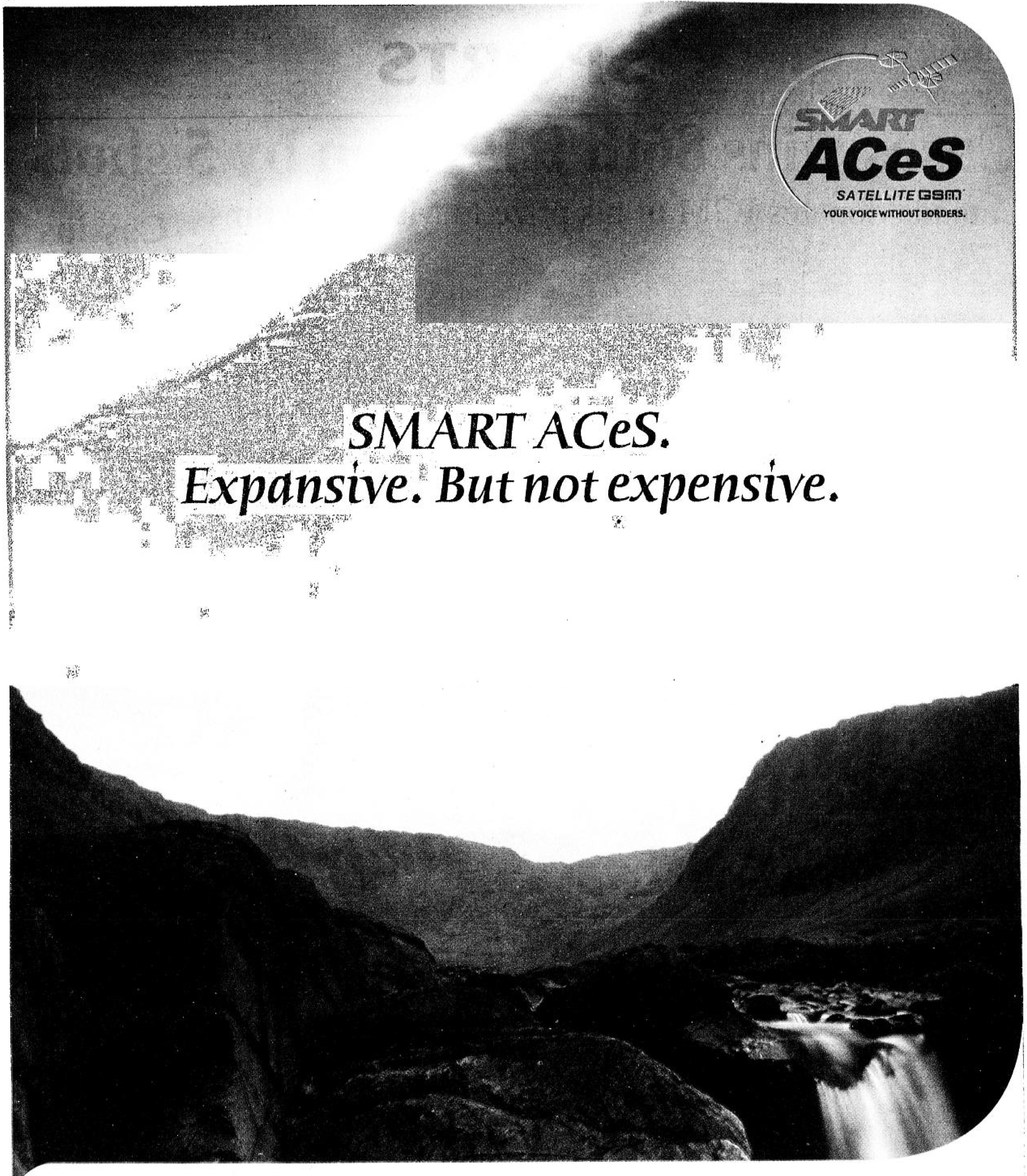

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METRO
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Reporter accused of theft A27

Robbers use stolen cab to pick up more victims A27

CADETS BOYCOTT TRAINING

'Abolish ROTC!'

JESS YUSON

FIST OF FURY is raised on the UST campus where ROTC cadets walk out of their Sunday formation.

BY AGNES E. DONATO, CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA AND CARLITO PABLO

THOUSANDS of college students and cadets from Metro Manila universities yesterday boycotted their military training to dramatize their call for the abolition of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC).

The separate protest actions on different campuses continued at the Chino Roces Bridge (Mendiola) in Manila where the students marched to demand the immediate abolition of what they described as an "irrelevant and blatantly corrupt" military training program.

The cadets and other students, led by members of Akbayan! Youth, the Student Council Alliance of the Philippines, the College Editors Guild of the Philippines, and the Movement for the Advancement of Student Power held a short program on Chino Roces to ask the government to look into the allegedly rampant anomalies in the ROTC and then to abolish the program immediately.

The protesters were from the University of the Philippines, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Centro Escolar University, University of the East Caloocan, Arellano University, and the University of Manila.

The murder of University of Sto. Tomas engineering student and cadet officer Mark Welson Chua sparked the protest actions.

'ABOLISH/A27

ERRATUM

We would like to inform you that the telephone number written on the **IASIA ACADEMY** ad on page C3 of the Business Section of today's issue should be **757-2222** instead of 752-2222. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Bare Eye: Gloria outpunches Erap, FVR A27

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3	APOY SA KARAGATAN
4	ACCIDENTAL SPY
5 (SDDS)	EVOLUTION
6	LUV TEXT
7 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
8	KASIBULAN

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	APOY SA KARAGATAN
3 (DTS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
4	MILA
5 (SDDS)	TOMB RAIDER

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	TOMB RAIDER

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	MILA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	AN DECENT BEHAVIOR
Lords	APOY SA KARAGATN
Jennet	MILA

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	MILA
3	APOY SA KARAGATAN
4	ACCIDENTAL SPY

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	MILA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	APOY SA KARAGATAN
4	MILA
5	LUV TEXT

New Divisoria Mall CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	MILA
2	APOY SA KARAGATAN
3	KASIBULAN
4	LUV TEXT
5	ACCIDENTAL SPY
6	TOMB RAIDER

Baclaran LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	MILA
2	TOMB RAIDER
3	APOY SA KARAGATAN
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	MILA
2	KASIBULAN
3 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MILA
2 (DTS)	THE REPLICANT
3 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
4	EVOLUTION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
2	KASIBULAN
3	MILA
4 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
2	MILA
3 (DTS)	LUVTEXT
4	KASIBULAN
5	THE REPLICANT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MILA
2	TOMB RAIDER
3	THE REPLICANT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	MILA
2	TOMB RAIDER
3	THE REPLICANT

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	MILA
3	BUHAY KAMAO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	MILA
2	TOMB RAIDER
3	THE REPLICANT

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	MILA
2 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	MILA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	KASIBULAN
2	TOMB RAIDER
3	MILA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	LUV TEXT
2	KASIBULAN
3	MILA
4	THE REPLICANT

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	MILA
2	TOMB RAIDER

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	KASIBULAN
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	MILA
4	TOMB RAIDER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TOMB RAIDER
2	MILA
3	HEAD OVER HEELS
4 (DTS EX)	EVOLUTION

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- ☆ HEAD OVER HEELS
- ☆ ACCIDENTAL SPY
- ☆ PEARL HARBOR
- ☆ MILA
- ☆ TOMB RAIDER
- ☆ EVOLUTION

GALLERIA
632-9115-16

- ☆ TOMB RAIDER
- ☆ TOMB RAIDER
- ☆ ACCIDENTAL SPY
- ☆ HEAD OVER HEELS
- ☆ EVOLUTION
- ☆ PEARL HARBOR
- ☆ THE MUMMY RETURNS
- ☆ MILA
- ☆ GET OVER IT
- ☆ TOMB RAIDER

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

- ☆ TOMB RAIDER
- ☆ TOMB RAIDER
- ☆ MILA
- ☆ EVOLUTION
- ☆ PEARL HARBOR
- ☆ ACCIDENTAL SPY

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

- ☆ THE REPLICANT
- ☆ HEAD OVER HEELS
- ☆ BUHAY KAMAO
- ☆ PEARL HARBOR
- ☆ POSSESSED
- ☆ KAMASUTRA

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	LUV TEXT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MILA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	TOMB RAIDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EVOLUTION
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT / SPLENDOR
ODEON	TOMB RAIDER
ODEON-2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
ROBEN	MILA
TANDEM-1	KASIBULAN
TANDEM-2	SIN OF THE NIGHT
TIMES	3,000 MILES / WHAT WOMEN WANTS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	APOY SA KARAGATAN
QUEZON-1	TOMB RAIDER
REMAR	MILA
REMAR-2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	DR. T & THE WOMEN
CINEMA-2	TOMB RAIDER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUHAY KAMAO
CINEMA-2	KASIBULAN
CINEMA-3	APOY SA KARAGATAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HEAD OVER HEELS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-6	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-7	LUV TEXT
CINEMA-8	MILA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-12	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-14	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-15	MILA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	MILA
CINEMA-2	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-3	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-4	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-5	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-6	TOMB RAIDER
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-2	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS
CINEMA-4	BLONDIE - 2
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
CINEMA-4	HIYAS

GIBBS

Janno sings at Mandarin

JANNO Gibbs goes solo this July in "Crossover Presents," the latest music series from 105.1 Crossover, July 4, 8 p.m. at Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental.

Under the musical direction of Gerard Salonga, the concert will see Janno singing music from the '70s to the '90s. The show will also highlight Jano's unique musical side.

Featured before the main act are the performances of comedian Jon Santos and the vocal group The Opera.

The event is presented by Shell-Citibank Gold Mastercard and Bayfresh, with I-Check from I-Bank, Zest Soap, New Lactum Plus and Café Puro Jade Blend.

For ticket inquiries, call Captain's Bar at 750-8888 or Ticket World at 891-5610.

Playhouse Disney

DISNEY Channel Asia announces today the launch of Playhouse Disney, it's new hosted pre-school programming block especially designed to engage and entertain preschoolers.

Playhouse Disney delivers a unique blend of hosted activity segments and popular preschool programs for four hours every weekday in an advertising-free environment.

The line-up includes award-winning preschool programs from around the world, including Emmy Award winning shows "Bear in the Big Blue House" and "Rolie Polie Olie."

Other Playhouse Disney favorites include PB and J Otter, Kipper, all of which offers hours of entertainment that will stimulate young children's minds and imaginations.

"We are very proud to announce the launch of Playhouse Disney, the first locally hosted and produced pre-school block, dedicated to young children, their parents and caregivers," said Raymund Miranda, managing director of the Disney Channel Asia. "Playhouse Disney represents Disney Channel's ongoing commitment to provide localized original content for kids and their families."

Playhouse Disney airs Mondays to Fridays at 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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6:00 PM - Tomb raider
8:20 PM - Closed
10:40 PM - Tomb Raider

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TERROR TAXI

Robbers use stolen cab to pick up more victims

By Philip C. Tubeza

IT WAS a joyride to hell.

Four robbers held up taxi driver Artemio D. Nell, 54, in Quezon City on rainy Saturday afternoon. To his horror, he soon found out that the robbers had other evil plans for his FX taxi.

They used it in a 13-hour "joyride," robbing unsuspecting passengers who flagged it down from Quezon City to Manila, and in going to the CCP Complex in Pasay City where the suspects had a shabu session.

Luckily for Nell, of Tierra Monte, Silangan, San Mateo, Rizal, the robbers released him and his taxi, both shaken but otherwise unharmed, in Balara, Quezon City, said investigator PO2 Romel Merino of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU).

"The driver said his taxi was always full (whenever the suspects announced a holdup)," Merino said. "That would mean up to six victims in each robbery."

As of noon yesterday, only six victims have complained to the CIU in Camp Karingal, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City, Merino said.

He said police were expecting more complaints from the other passengers who were robbed during the five trips the robbers took between Manila and Quezon City.

Merino identified the victims who have complained as Rodel P. Cruz, 35; Michael V. Ocampo, 31; Lilibeth T. de la Cruz, 31; Rosemarie O. Escobar, 43; and Edward A. Sobrenante, 43.

Nell told investigators that the unidentified men were all in their 20s and were armed with two cal. .45 pistols and a cal. 38 revolver.

"He said they looked decent," Merino said, quoting the driver. "One of them even wore long sleeves."

Saturday afternoon, Nell was driving his white Toyota Tamaraw FX taxi (TVR-129) along Quezon Avenue when four men flagged him down and occupied the remaining seats.

About 3 p.m., when the taxi reached Quiapo, Nell's nightmare began. "The men suddenly pulled out their handguns and announced the holdup," Merino said.

Nell said the armed men told him to drive to Dimasalang in Sampaloc, Manila. At the Central Market, one of the armed men took the wheel. Another sat in the front passenger seat and a third guarded Nell behind the driver's seat. The fourth man also sat in the back.

The robbers brought the taxi to C-3 Road, where they divested the passengers of their valuables before letting them go.

The armed men then drove the taxi to Taft Avenue and picked up their second batch of victims. When the taxi was full, the men announced the holdup, robbed the passengers, and then let them go in Balut, Tondo.

Nell said the men drove the taxi to Kagitingan, also in Tondo, where the men bought sachets of shabu, or methamphetamine hydrochloride, from a pusher.

Then they drove to the CCP Complex in Pasay and the robbers feasted on the shabu, Nell said.

After getting high, the robbers drove back to Taft Avenue, put up the "Fairview" signboard on the windshield so they could pick up more passengers going to Quezon City.

"One passenger wanted to get off at Philcoa," Merino said. "Instead of stopping, the robber-driver stepped on the gas while his accomplices held up the passengers."

The robbers dropped off the victims "in a dark area" on the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City, Merino said.

The robbers drove back to Quezon Avenue, this time putting up the signboard "Divisoria," and again collected passengers. The robbers announced the holdup at the corner of Araneta and Quezon avenues.

This time, the victims were dropped off in the vicinity of Sienna College, Merino said.

The robbers drove again to Taft and then turned back to Fairview for their last trip, Merino said.

When the cab was filled again, the robbers announced the holdup near Philcoa and then let the passengers go on the UP campus.

Nell said that when they cruised on Katipunan Avenue, he became even more scared because it was already past midnight and he knew that Diliman was known as a dumping ground for the bodies of taxi drivers who had been robbed and killed.

But to his relief, the robbers decided to get off in Balara around 4 a.m. yesterday, after warning him not to tell anyone about what happened.

The driver went home and told his taxi operator about the long ride. Yesterday morning, he went to the CIU in Camp Karingal and reported the incident.

Reporter accused of theft

By Philip C. Tubeza

A TABLOID reporter is in hot water for allegedly stealing a cellular phone from a housewife in Quezon City.

Cesar C. Villanueva, 38, of the tabloid called Toro, also allegedly bragged that he could get away with the alleged theft because he was a member of the press.

Complainant Pilar T. Bautista, 38, of Makabayan Street in Barangay Obrero, Quezon City, accused Villanueva, of Phase II Lupang Pangako, Payatas, of stealing her Nokia 3310 cellular phone on Saturday morning, police said.

But Villanueva denied the charges and in turn filed a charge of frustrated homicide against Bautista's husband, police said.

In her sworn statement, Bautista said she was washing clothes outside her home at around 7 a.m. Saturday when her neighbor Fely Cueto called her to say that somebody had sneaked into her house.

Bautista said she quickly went inside her house and saw Villanueva there. "He had my cell phone and he was putting it in his left back pocket," she told police.

She said she confronted Villanueva who allegedly retorted, "Press *'to*" (I'm a media man).

According to Bautista, Villanueva said before leaving, "I am not afraid because I'm a member of the press."

Bautista said the reporter returned later that day with a policeman and two other men. She said Villanueva told her to produce her husband but they went away when they realized her husband was not home.

Bautista said she went to the Kamuning police station to report the incident. But Villanueva also went to the police station and filed a charge of frustrated homicide against Bautista's husband.

'Abolish ROTC!'

(From page A25)

Chua was 19 when he was killed in March after exposing anomalies in the ROTC. His body was found wrapped in a carpet and floating in the Pasig River on March 19. His face was also wrapped with packing tape and his hands and feet were bound.

Last week, the Armed Forces of the Philippines bestowed posthumously on Chua the Outstanding Achievement Medal with a citation signed by AFP chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva.

On the campuses, a number of cadets did not attend their regular training sessions yesterday. Others fell out from their formations to join the protest.

Cristina Palabay, president of the National Union of Students of the Philippines, said the Metro Manila-wide boycott of ROTC training was in protest of the "decades of physical agony" that male students have been experiencing in the hands of abusive cadet officers.

Despite the tight security in UST, protesters led by militant groups managed to take over the grandstand where they asked thousands of cadets to leave the training field.

They burned an ROTC uniform and gave cadets white roses as a sign that "the mass action is against ROTC as a system and not against its members," according to Janssen Dangzalan, 19, a UST cadet and a member of MASP.

At the Philippine Normal University, students tied black ribbons around trees and posts to symbolize their protest.

In UP, where the ROTC program was first implemented, some 400 students picketed the Department of Military Science and Tactics at 6:30 a.m.

Composed mostly of freshmen students, the protesters laid out three proposals to the department-to effect certain reforms in the program, to make ROTC optional, and to ultimately scrap it.

But Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos argued that "national defense can never be optional."

UST engineering student Romulo Yumul Jr. said the program only means added expense for the students. "As if our tuition and other school fees were not costly enough," he said.

Dangzalan described ROTC as "a source of fear, hatred, harassment, sexism, violence, and a number of human rights violations."

Cadets earlier launched a signature drive to drum up support for the nationwide ROTC abolition campaign. The campaign aims to collect at least 1 million signatures from cadets.

The signatures will be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo when she delivers her State of the Nation Address during the opening of Congress on July 13.

The drive has solicited 8,000 signatures in Metro Manila, according to Rey Asis, CEPG national president.

Vendor slain over stall

By Agnes E. Donato

A SIDEWALK vendor yesterday morning was allegedly stabbed and killed by a Pasig City employee because the vendor refused to dismantle his stall.

Candidato Amintao, 37, a native of Maguindanao and a resident of Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City, died immediately from a stab wound in the side of the body, police said.

The suspect, Charlie Danas, 28, market arranger at the Pasig City Market and a resident of Blumentritt Street in Barangay Kapasigan, was arrested by PO2 Joselito Mendez of the Police Community Precinct 7 shortly after the stabbing.

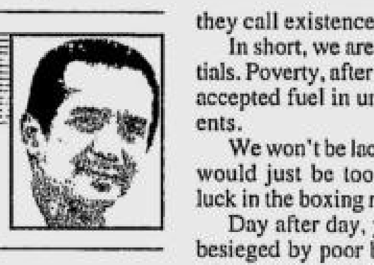
Investigator PO3 Rodrigo de Dios said Amintao was manning his stall on the sidewalk at the Terminal Plana on Caruncho Avenue in Barangay Malinao when a group of men from city hall approached him about 8:30 a.m.

The group, reportedly from the clearing unit of the Pasig City Hall, told Amintao to leave the sidewalk, saying the city government prohibits vendors from doing business there.

When Amintao refused, they had an argument until one of the men in the group pulled out a knife and stabbed Amintao. Witnesses later identified the stabber as Danas.

Gloria outpunches Erap, FVR

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

MANNY Pacquiao's scintillating triumph, in case you missed it, also opened the eyes of the government to the sad state of boxing in the Philippines.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in fact, saw a run-down car that needs a complete overhaul, not a mere washing and tune-up.

The President used the world "modernize" in writing a prescription for Philippine boxing.

Well, she could've spoken straight to the point and declared something was terribly wrong with the way we've been training our professional boxers.

But now in the presence of Manny Pacquiao, newly crowned world super-bantamweight boxing champion, President Macapagal tried to lay it on sweet.

There was no available money to accommodate suggestions that government back up the holding of Pacquiao's first title defense in Manila instead of abroad.

She instead demanded an overhaul of our boxing system.

* * *

In that shining moment with the newly crowned world boxing champ, who swore he was just one very poor boy who strived and worked very hard, Madame President was transformed into a fighter herself.

And that punch she threw in demanding changes in our boxing system was a big, thinking first that landed smack in the bull's-eye.

It's the one thing we've been crying for all these years, a rethinking, a remodeling, a complete modernization of the outdated native boxing system.

It's quite ironic that the issue was raised right after a new Pinoy golden boy stole the scene in Las Vegas and when everybody was supposed to be jubilant.

Anyway, this should not be taken as a dig at Ms Macapagal's predecessors.

But it's very clear she has dared venture into ground virtually left untouched by both Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada.

The two immediate past presidents of the republic, who could be heavyweights in their own right, had indeed supported boxing. They had both encouraged and supported the title defenses of Filipino world champs, Luisito Espinosa and Gerry Peñalosa in particular, on local shores.

But it took a radiant, straight-shooting light-flyweight—take a bow Madame—to dissect the problem and offer what could be a golden solution.

* * *

The President was right. There are indeed a lot more Pacquiaos waiting to be discovered and weaned.

These poor souls could right now be wasting away in the slums, if not yet in jail, slugging it out brutally day after day with this poor man's game they call existence.

In short, we are overly rich in potentials. Poverty, after all, is the single most accepted fuel in unraveling boxing talents.

We won't be lacking in aspirants who would just be too willing to try their luck in the boxing ring.

Day after day, your reporter here is besieged by poor boys from the slums who keep wondering how they could try it out as professional boxers.

Mandaluyong, my hometown, could be a model. Let me report that Mayor Benhur Abalos has conceptualized a boxing gym at the Welfareville compound where poor, young aspirants could walk in, register, train and try out their guts and skills in boxing. This project may take some time to realize, but the vision of the young Abalos could also be picked up and pursued much ahead by other city and town executives.

* * *

Of course, Abalos is overwhelmed by the problem of staffing. He wants to know where he could get people with the perfect know-how to run his proposed boxing gym for the people.

He knows it would be a waste of time, effort and money if the program were run relying on a decayed system.

The problem is it won't be easy tapping people with the proper boxing luggage.

For one, our top boxers, both current champion and recent champions, have had to go out of the country to avail themselves of proper training, mainly in the United States.

Manny Pacquiao did blossom overnight into a sharp, thinking fighter after being redone and re-chiseled by Freddie Roach in his California training camp.

Gerry Peñalosa, despite his inborn gifts, has had to attend the Roy Jones camp in Florida and got pushed to championship level by Alton Merckerson, a former Green Beret.

Even Luisito Espinosa, who reigned long as world featherweight king, had to first settle in San Jose, California, under the wings of ex-manager Hermie Rivera. It was from California, not Manila, where Espinosa moved out in 1989 to capture the WBA bantamweight crown in Bangkok.

* * *

All told, we have to state at the risk of being redundant that President Arroyo's wish to "modernize" Philippine boxing was long overdue.

But, mind you, this big job is easier said than done.

The first question to ask is, do we have the mechanics or, more pertinently, do we have the right men to do and supervise the desired modernization?

Maybe it's also worth investigating if we have qualified people running our boxing affairs.

Did those in charge make it to their posts mainly through shameless political patronage?

Maybe, in seeking changes in the national boxing set-up, President Arroyo might also have to revitalize the staffing of the government agency that's supposedly supervising the sport?

The President has indeed scored big during that radiant moment with Manny Pacquiao.

It's now her turn to move in for the kill.

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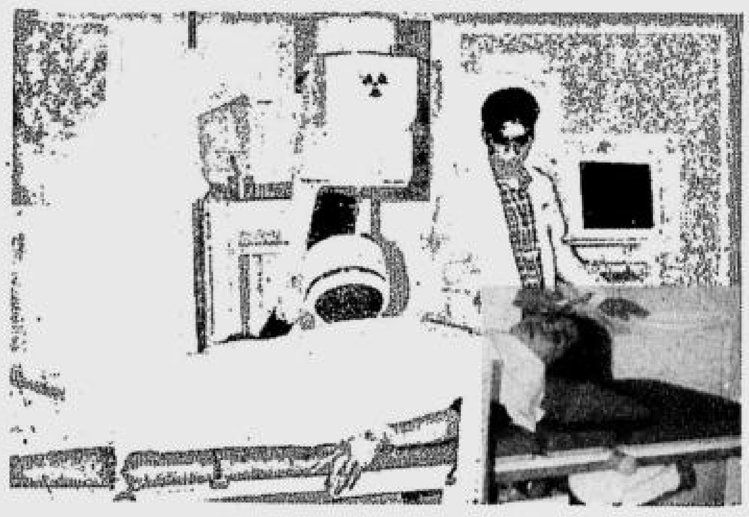

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Janice interviews Aga

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

(Conclusion)

AFTER **Aga Muhlach** and **Janice de Belen** had gotten over their initial awkwardness on "S-Files" last June 24, they settled into their one-on-one interview with the discipline and focus of the professional stars they were.

They had to do the interview night because they had a lot riding on it. Aga had his new movie to plug, while Janice needed an attention-calling first interview to highlight her having joined the show as **Paolo Bediones**' cohost on a permanent basis.

Her interview with her ex-lover Aga was "it," but it still had to be handled with finesse, or else it could explode in both their faces and make them the laughing stock of the nation.

Another complication was provided by the fact that Aga had just gotten married to **Charlene Gonzales**, while Janice had just been separated from her husband, **John Estrada**. What a strange, seesaw state of affairs!

Would Aga patronize Janice for the failure of her marriage? Would Janice cynically disparage Aga's own chances of being happy on the long term with Janice? The voyeuristic viewer watched on.

Happily, while there was a little sumbatan every now and then, Aga and Janice pretty much kept things above board and in check. But we also got a twinge of regret over what might have been, if they had gotten married a decade ago instead of eventually ending up with other "lifetime" partners.

They still looked so right for each other, even if things between them had gone so wrong.

Finally, as the long interview drew to a close, they chose to focus on their son, **Luigi**.

They really need to cooperate more with each other despite their long and sometimes acrimonious estrangement from each other, to make sure that he feels loved by both his parents.

Especially now that he, too has decided to become an actor, with all of the stresses and distractions that being a young scion of celebrities entails.

After Janice's on-camera conversation with Aga, we assessed what we had just seen and concluded that it deserved to join our growing list of "Only in the Philippines" pop phenomena.

Where else would you see two ex-lovers and parents of a love child baring (almost) all on national television, just to boost the ratings of a TV show and improve a new movie's chances at the tills?

Aga and Janice are good people, but they saw the need to barter a part of themselves and their privacy to boost their respective careers. There are no culprits and villains in this instance, just the fact that, in these parts, controversy counts more with film fans than a good performance.

SGPI registration day

THE SCREENWRITERS Guild of the Philippines (SGPI) is inviting all film and television scriptwriters to join the guild and register on Sunday, July 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Mowelfund Plaza in Quezon City.

Membership requirements: at least one screenplay teleplay produced, whether solo or co-written; two 1x1 ID photos, and P300 membership fee.

The SGPI is currently under the leadership of chair **Pete Lacaba**, president **Ricky Lee** and EVP Roy Iglesias.

It aims to address scriptwriters' problems and give a collective voice to every Filipino screenwriter. Various workshops will also be held. Call **Jerry** at 428-4961.

Julia Roberts and Benjamin Bratt break up

LOS ANGELES—Oscar winner Julia Roberts and her one-time beau Benjamin Bratt of TV's "Law and Order" fame are headed for splitsville, the actress' publicist confirmed Thursday.

The star couple, who had been dating for three and a half years, agreed to break up a month ago, said Roberts's publicist Marcie Engelman.

"It was his decision," Engelman said in a phone interview from New York.

Roberts, who won an Oscar for best actress in March for "Erin Brockovich," had no comment, Engelman said.

But one of Bratt's friends blamed the split on the pressures of living in the shadow of Hollywood's biggest female star.

"He saw her career as a conflict to his plans and what he wants," the friend told the New York Daily News. "He didn't want to be known as Mr. Julia Roberts."

Another friend told the paper that Bratt, 37, had been trying for years to get her to commit to marriage. "They'd been back and forth on it. He finally had enough."

Roberts, 33, flew to visit him in Montreal last month, where he's been shooting "Abandoned."

The love life of The Pretty Woman dubbed "Hollywood's most powerful woman" has been the stuff of tabloids recently.

The Runaway Bride was engaged to actor Kiefer Sutherland in 1991, but broke it off shortly before their planned June wedding.

Her marriage to country singer Lyle Lovett ended in 1995, after less than two years.

Before getting together with Bratt, she was linked romantically to Jason Patric, Dylan McDermott, Daniel Day-Lewis, Matthew Perry and Liam Neeson. *AFP*

Spielberg delivers bogus call sheets

LOS ANGELES—Collaboration between Steven Spielberg and the late Stanley Kubrick on "AI Artificial Intelligence" was so secretive that Spielberg installed a fax line in a locked closet that only Kubrick could send to.

"It's true," film producer Bonnie Curtis told Zap2it. "I'm one of the few people who knew about that fax line."

"It was very hush-hush," says Curtis, one of the few who had a key to the secret fax room. The memos between the two directors will probably never been seen, if they even still exist, the entertainment website reports.

Crew, lighting people and customers had to go into locked offices and read only parts of the script, Curtis said.

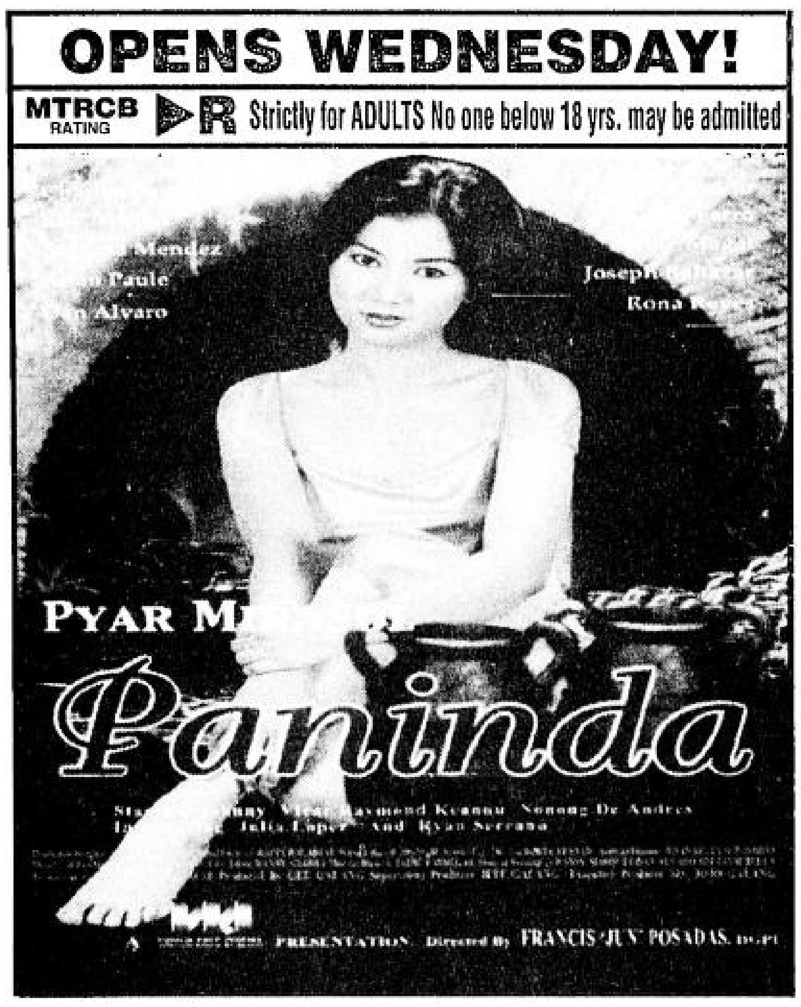
"As secretive as the set was, one day someone came into the office saying, 'Our call sheet (schedule of what's happening on the set) is on the Internet,' and so we came up with bogus call sheets," she admits.

Star Haley Joel Osment, in almost every scene as a boy robot, was one of the few people who got a full script, but every page was numbered.

"They would know if my script got into the wrong hands or got out there somehow," Osment tells Zap2it, laughing.

Even the robot boy's mother-robot, Frances O'Connor, says she was required to sign a nondisclosure agreement and only got a portion of the full script.

"I got all of my story," O'Connor tells Zap2it. *AFP*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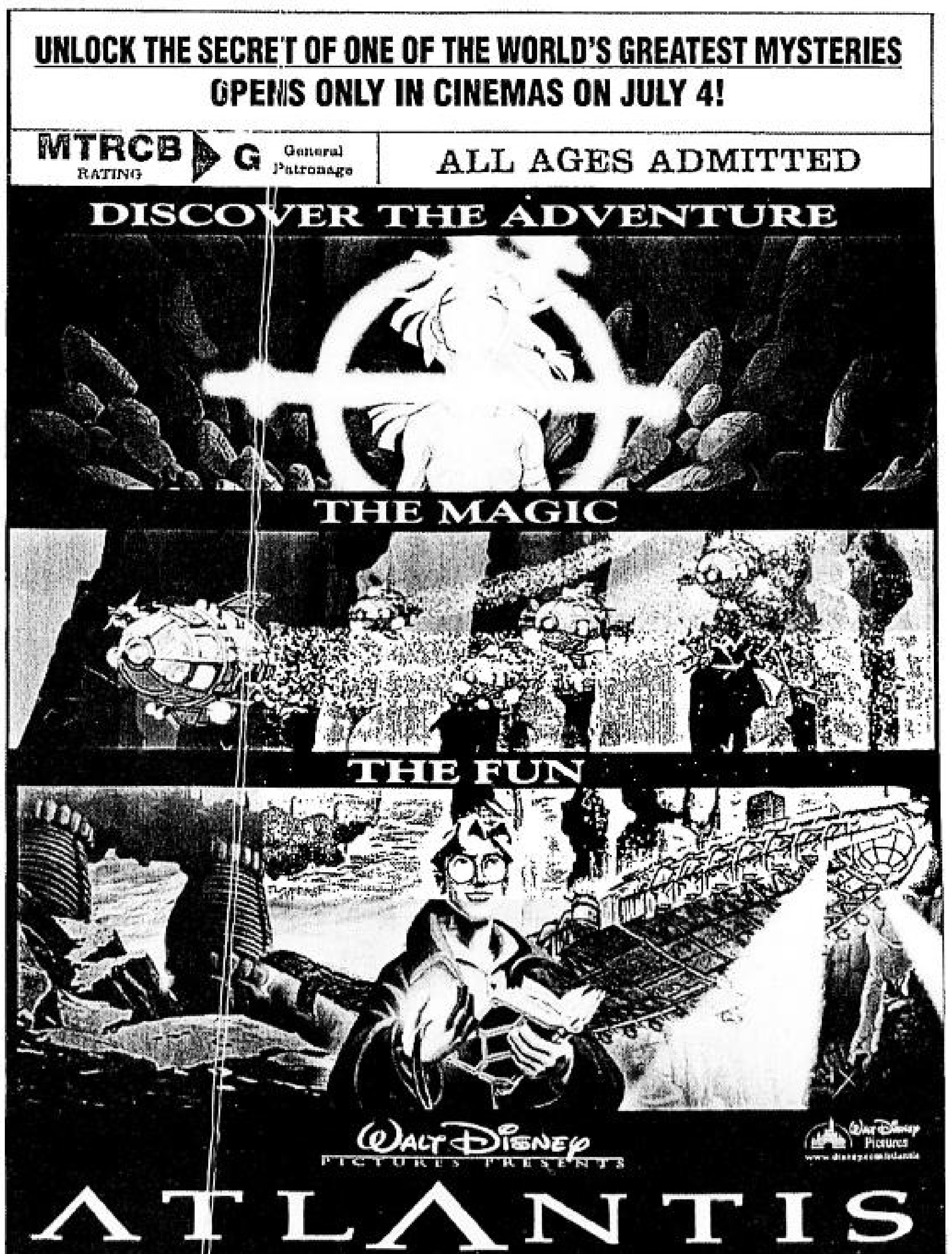
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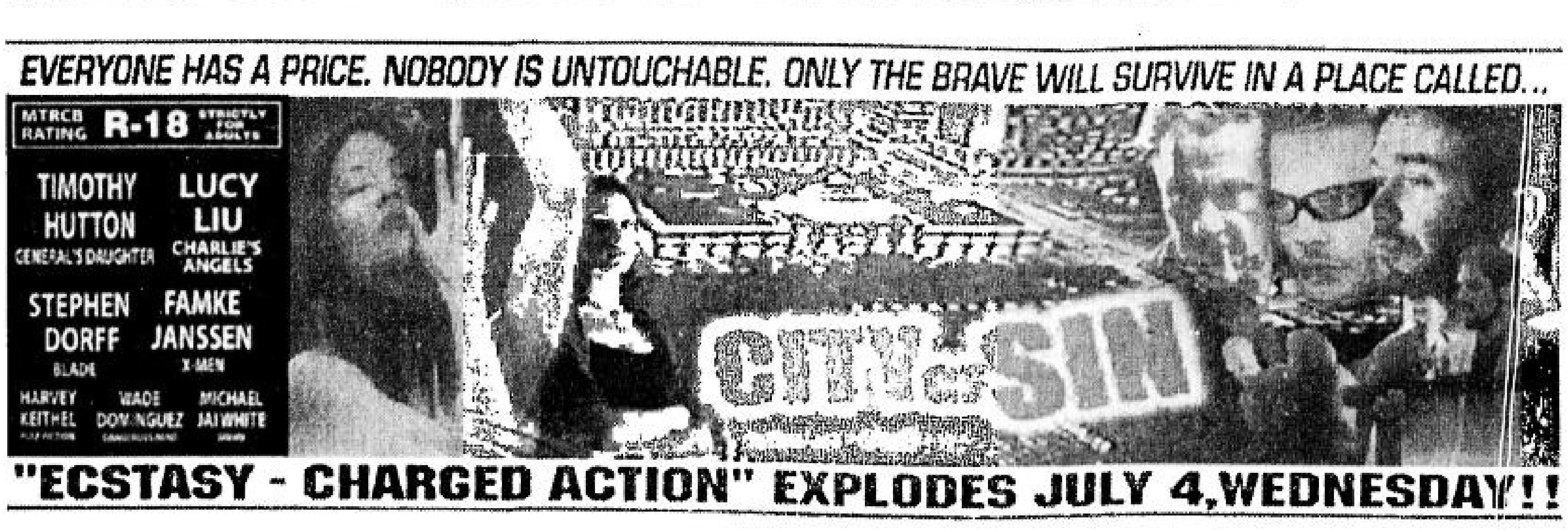
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TOMB RAIDER - P 13 10:55, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40	ACCIDENTAL SPY - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	TOMB RAIDER - P 13 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Three New York days filled with makeup, gays, food and TV

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

THE NEW York hotel where I was booked for the "America's Sweethearts" international press junket was The Regency on Park Avenue and 61st Street. Shopping-wise, it was a heavenly location because on Madison Avenue and 60th Street was Barneys New York and on Lexington Avenue and 59th Street was Bloomingdale's. Park Avenue was sandwiched between Lexington and Madison.

The Regency seems to be a favorite of the stars. I was told that almost all movie junkets in New York City were held either at this hotel or at the Essex. On the weekend I was there, the head waiter at the hotel coffee shop, The Library, told me that apart from the "America's Sweethearts" junket, there was another junket in the hotel for a **Robert de Niro** starrer.

Barely there

I am a make-up fanatic. In Barneys I went straight to the bobbi brown counter. **Zsa Zsa (Padilla)** had asked me to buy her bobbi brown's color stick in "clay." This is a chubby pencil that can be used on your cheeks, lips and eyes. It's very natural looking and a great barely-there lip color. I use bobbi brown's eye shadows and blushes, plus the excellent concealer and foundation stick. Her latest product, a waterproof gel eyeliner, is superb. I've used it during an all-night taping and it really stayed on.

Since I also bought **Boy (Abunda)** his makeup for "The Buzz" and "Private Conversations," and some concealer and powder for my mom, the sales manager asked if I worked on camera or if I did make-up professionally. I said that I hosted a talk show on television in the Philippines. She asked if I had any proof. Luckily, my US visa is attached to my old Philippine passport, which still listed the bearer's occupation. I presented my passport as proof and since it did say "actress" she told me that she could give me a whopping 40 percent artist discount. Great deal.

Unfortunately, bobbi brown is not yet available in Manila. It's a shame because the make-up line would be a hit with Filipinas since the colors are so wearable and actually quite conservative. (My favorite make-up artists, **Bambbi Fuentes** and **Deng Foz**, can attest to the Pinay's penchant for requesting makeup "*na parang wala,*" makeup that seems to be not there at all.)

I read that Estee Lauder now owns bobbi brown. Hopefully, after the success of Origins, another Estee Lauder brand, in Rustan's, they'll decide to make a go of launching bobbi brown here.

Over at Henri Bendel on Fifth Avenue, I had the time of my life experimenting at the Benefit make-up counter. Deng, my makeup artist and companion on the trip, was at first hesitant when the sales agent was convincing us to try their creme shadow. From Deng's experience, the Philippine climate is just too humid for creamy eye shadows to work.

The sales agent was persistent and we gave in to her sweet talk.

The eye shadow turns out to be just so easy to blend and its color lasts all day and night, without fading or smearing off. I've been using the two brown shades that we bought, and they're just the best eye shadows I've ever tried.

The good news is Benefit has a website and a catalog, plus they deliver to the Philippines.

Gay and disciplined

On June 24, New York had its annual Gay and Lesbian Parade. We were on our way to hear Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue and we witnessed the parade up close. There were hundreds of New York policemen and policewomen on duty. Blue barricades were erected on all the sidewalks, and there was an orderly traffic and pedestrian re-routing.

The participants represented all members of gay and lesbian alliances. They came in all shapes, sizes, and ethnic origins. There were the "macho" gays, with bodies as buff as any bodybuilder's. There were the surgically altered transvestites in the sexiest string bikinis and "breast pasties" I've ever seen. (Think in terms of the costumes in "Showgirls" or "Striptease.")

There were monogamous lesbian and gay couples holding placards declaring their decades-long devotion to each other. There were even actual blue-uniformed gay and lesbian cops marching with them.

The scene was very impressive because of the level of sexual tolerance displayed as well as the political muscle of the New York gays and lesbians. All six New York City mayoral candidates made their presence felt and showed their support for gay and lesbian rights. Most of all, when the march ended around 4 p.m. there was no trash whatsoever left on the streets. If only our rallies could be that disciplined.

Benihana

That Sunday afternoon, we had *merienda* at Dean and Deluca in Rockefeller Center. If you've ever watched "Felicity" on TV, you'd be familiar with this New York area café and take-out food outlet.

I was surprised when this American approached me and said that he knew me, and in fact he had just watched "The Buzz" last week. Turned out he has a Filipina girlfriend and they have TFC (The Filipino Channel) installed in their apartment.

That night, our last in New York, we had to have rice. I found out that there was a Benihana just five blocks away from our hotel, on 56th Street between Park and Lexington. We used to have a Benihana at El Pueblo but I was surprised when I saw a couple of months ago that it had been replaced by another Japanese restaurant.

We used to eat at Benihana for special occasions in Boston when we were living there in the early 1980s. Every time I'm in the US and I know that there's a Benihana in the city I'm visiting, I make a sentimental visit to the restaurant since it reminds me of that one special time in my life when our family was complete and living in freedom.

To this day, they still have the best salad dressing and soup appetizer. I finished every last bite of my Splash and Meadow, a shrimp and sirloin steak combination cooked by the chef on their hibachi grill right at our table. Deng loved his teriyaki steak and fried rice.

Donuts and cookies

One of the best things about New York is that it has an infinite variety of restaurants to choose from. As soon as we arrived at the airport, I saw that Au bon Pain carried Krispy Kreme donuts. These are former President Clinton's favorite donuts and with good reason. They melt in your mouth.

We got a dozen and Deng and I polished them off within that day. Can't wait for that franchise to arrive in Manila.

On our first night we ate at Smith and Wollensky, an old and established steak house. I indulged myself with a generous serving of New York-cut steak "served on the bone."

On my second night, when I watched the special screening of "America's Sweethearts," I had a hotdog and popcorn. Luckily, we were just in town for three nights or I'm sure I'd have easily grown one dress size with all my eating. But since New York is a walking town, you somehow feel that you manage to walk off at least some of the calories.

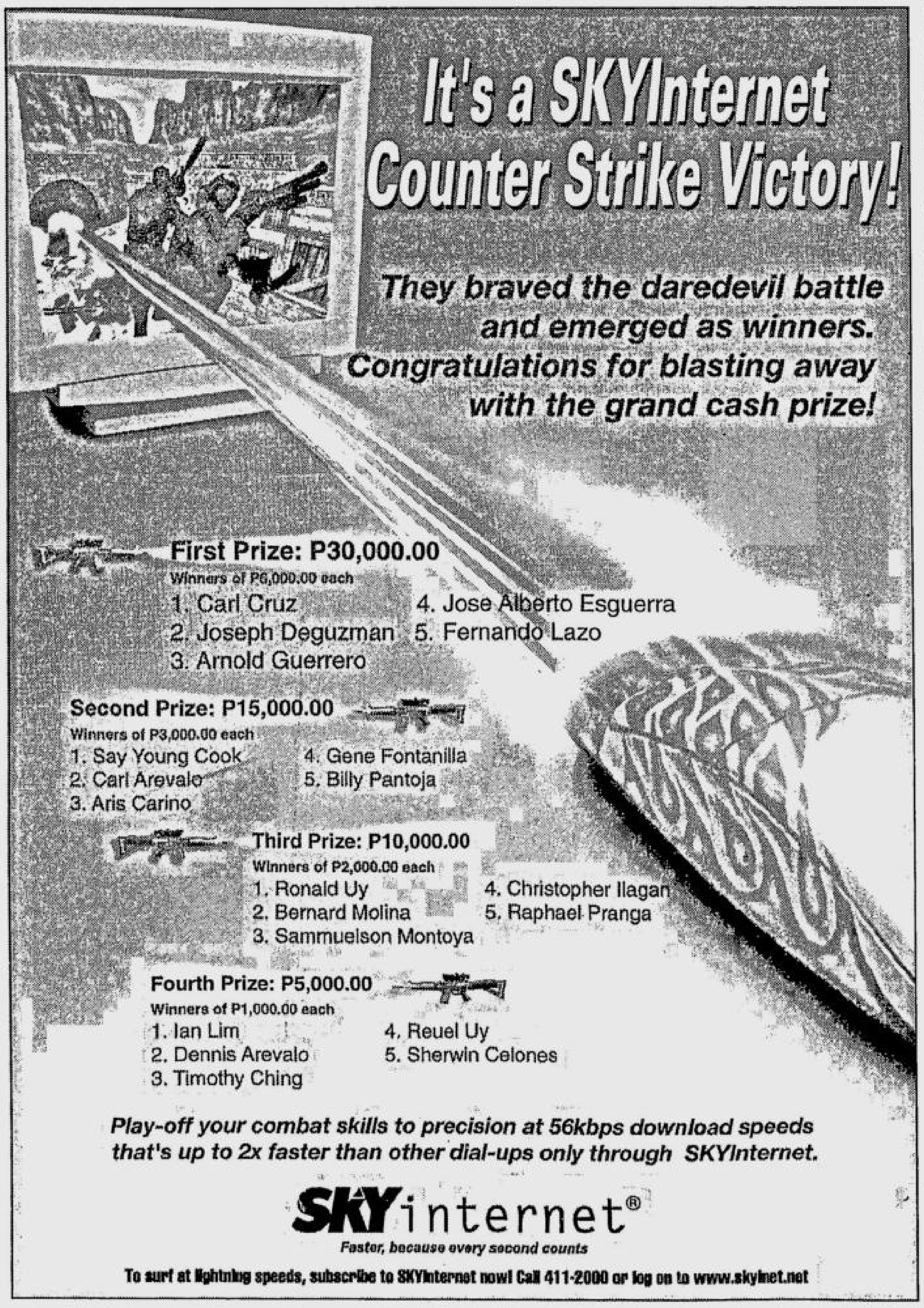
In our hotel, I couldn't resist the special chocolate chip cookies. The recipe came from a sister hotel in Philadelphia. This cookie had more chocolate chunks than actual cookie dough. And when you bite into it, the chocolate inside would be melting and the cookie was so chewy, an indication of how freshly baked it was.

Sex and Death

On TV, I got to see an episode of HBO's "Sex and the City" season 4. We in the Philippines are only starting the third season, so I won't be a spoiler and give away the latest plot lines. But **Carrie**'s pining over someone new, who's even more appealing than Mr. Big!

There's a new HBO series called "Six Feet Under" which came on right after "Sex and the City." It's about a family of undertakers, hence the title, and what goes on in the lives of the bodies they are working on that lead them to become customers. It's so well written. I really hope that we'll be getting it here in Manila soon.

That's about it on my New York City trip. I'll keep you posted on when we'll be airing my **Julia Roberts** interview.



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Man attempts to interfere with nature once more in the 3rd installment of the popular prehistoric sci-fi series!
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JULY 24
GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA 6
MOULIN ROUGE
Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor sing their hearts out in this dazzling reinvention of the movie musical

JULY 31
BRIDGET JONES' DIARY
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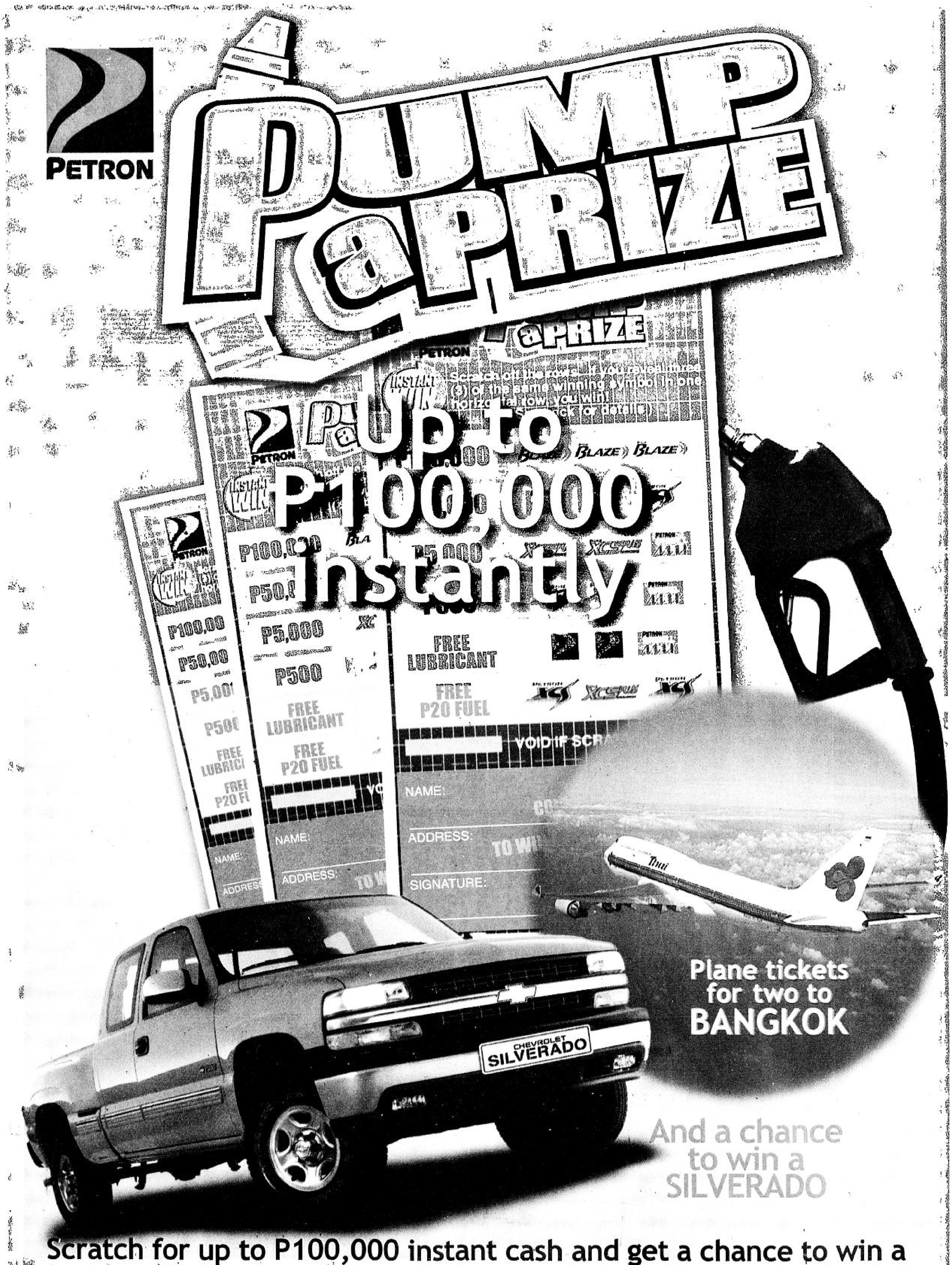
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Land Bank, Metrobank eye pact on ₱60B in bad loans

By Clarissa S. Batino

A COMMON list of soured loans has prompted the Metrobank Group and state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines to explore a possible consolidation of their non-performing assets amounting to almost P60 billion.

Land Bank executive vice president Alfonso Cruz Jr. said the plan to lump their P29.6 billion worth of bad loans with Metrobank's P29.01 billion in non-performing loans was raised after both banks realized that they had at least three big loans in common.

Cruz added that five foreign groups have offered to help Land Bank dispose of its NPLs and foreclosed assets by creating an asset management company.

The five were Lehman Brothers, Deutsche Bank, Bank of America, Arthur Andersen, and JP Morgan Chase.

"We are looking at all options and the best possible combination, whether to do this ourselves or with another bank and whether we should tap an asset manager to help us," Cruz said.

Among Metrobank's and Land Bank's common NPLs were those extended to Mimosa Leisure and Resorts Corp., Reynolds Philippines and Bacnotan Corp. Their loans with Land Bank were worth P600 million, P900 million, and P500 million, respectively.

Metrobank was the first bank to declare its plan to put up an asset management company.

Land Bank president Margarito Teves said the reduction of their NPL this year by P10 billion from the current level equivalent to 23 percent of loan portfolio was a priority. "This is an area we really have to work on."

Teves noted that a strategy was to focus on the collection or resolution of the top 50 problematic loans led by Petrochemicals Corporation of Asia Pacific where Land Bank has a P1.5-billion exposure, followed by National Steel Corp. with P1.2 billion, All Asia Trust as well as Reynolds Philippines with P932 million each, Profinda Holdings with P400 million, and Victorias Milling Corp. with P389 million.

Among the measures the bank was considering to reduce its bad loans were to pursue collection, restructure some of the debts, accept a dacion en pago or payment-in-kind arrangement, and foreclose the loan when no other option was left.

A tie-up with a foreign firm to put up an asset management company, Teves said, was also an attractive option because the collection or even the disposal of bad assets could be more efficient.

Cruz pointed out, however, that a ticklish issue with an external asset-management firm was the valuation or at what discount would the asset manager buy the NPLs.

"We are state-owned so we don't have the same flexibility as the private sector in terms of agreeing to a transaction. The intention though is to make firm decisions with our NPLs this year," Cruz said.

The country's 45 commercial banks carry a total of P245 billion worth of non-performing loans out of a total loan portfolio of P1.44 trillion.

As of March, the banks' bad loans swelled to 16.69 percent from 16.48 percent in the previous month as businesses and individuals failed to cope with their maturing obligations after interest rates rose last year while economic conditions deteriorated.

Jollibee eyes foreign markets

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER establishing dominance in the Philippines, fast-food giant Jollibee Foods Corp. has mapped out a strategy to gain a stronger foothold in the overseas market.

JFC chair and president Tony Tan Caktiong told reporters after the company's stockholders' meeting Friday that JFC would begin to expand its overseas presence through the franchising route.

According to the company's annual report, JFC had a total of 22 overseas stores located in the United States, Hong Kong and Brunei as of end-2000.

Tan Caktiong said JFC wanted to see its flagship Jollibee brand opening at least 15 stores in every major market around the world.

"We're looking at the Asian region, in all the major countries like Singapore, Taiwan and Malaysia, exploring through the franchising method," Tan Caktiong said.

"We need to establish about 15 stores in each market to be viable. That's why when we look for franchisees, we're looking for a group that can open at least 15 stores," he said.

He said the group had likewise received some inquiries on overseas franchising for Chowking, its Chinese fast-food restaurant chain, but noted that it was better to concentrate on the Jollibee brand first as far as international expansion is concerned.

The JFC group also owns and operates Greenwich Pizza as well as the Delifrance restaurant chains.

JFC chief finance officer Miguel Jose Navarette said that for this year, the company has earmarked P200 million to P300 million to open new stores abroad.

"So far this year we've opened one in the US. There are another two to open within the month of July and probably there are a few more for the balance of the year. We've also opened new stores in Hong Kong," Navarette said.

JFC began its overseas expansion in 1987 with the opening of its first offshore store in Brunei. In 1998, it opened its first store in the United States. As a follow-through to the successful store in Daly City, more stores were opened in various sites in California, which enabled the company to establish a total of six stores in the US so far.

"We want to proceed to the new markets with caution so that we don't over-expand. We're looking at two major resources, one is the capital and the other is human. If we use the franchising method, that will lessen the capital requirements, but still we have to support it properly with the organization," Tan Caktiong said.

"We're proceeding with the international expansion and in fact we're hiring people who are fluent in the Chinese language for the Chinese-speaking countries," he said.

For this year, JFC is expecting an 8- to 10-percent rise in profit from the P909.67 million chalked up last year on the back of a 20-percent improvement in revenue.

"Margins are still not to our liking

JOLLIBEE/ B3

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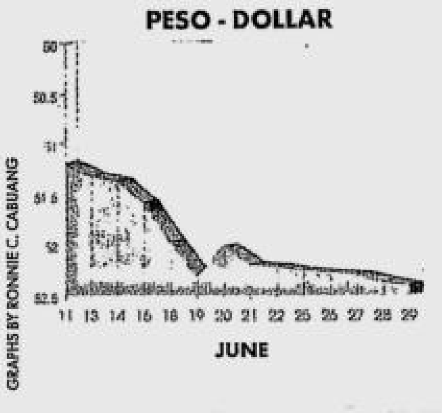

GRAPHS BY RONNIE C. CABUANG

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The US dollar was trading at 124.26 as of 5 p.m., June 29, 2001

GOLD:$269.60/270.10

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STOCK MARKET

Weak trading seen

STOCK trading is expected to remain weak as the market sentiment continues to be dampened by the peso's weakness and the pressure on interest rates.

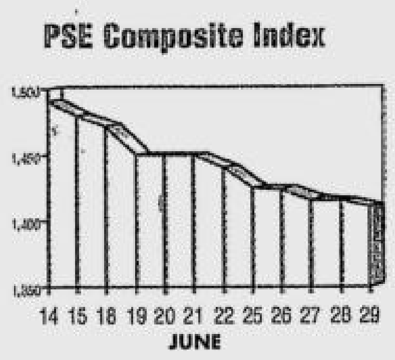
However, traders said there seems to be some bargain hunting on selected blue chips and secondliners which are near their lows.

They said the market remained above the 1400 psychological support but it may attempt to break this support this week.

Analysts said the market kept to its negative bias for most of the week as investors chose to stay sidelined, buffeted by negative developments for much of the week.

The weaker peso, the pressure on interest rates, and the hostage crisis all had their expected impact on the market; in addition, the negative sentiment from the bursting of the speculative bubble on index secondliners may have also flowed to the broader market, they said.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped by another 30 points or 2.1 percent week-on-week to close at 1410.07 on Friday amid losses in financial and property sectors.



(See stock market report on Page B6)

SEC allows Ayala Plans to maintain Globe stake

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission said it would allow Ayala Plans Inc. to keep equity investments in Globe Telecom Inc. beyond the prescribed limits.

Under Circular No. 1 last year, the SEC requires that pre-need plan companies' investment in a particular security should not exceed 10 percent of total equity investments.

Ayala Plans' pension trust fund investment in Globe Telecom represented 73.6 percent of its total equity investments while its education trust fund investment in the cellular phone service company accounted for 48.6 percent, SEC records showed.

The Commission en banc Thursday approved the monitoring and audit division recommendation to grant the request of Ayala Plans' trust fund manager, Bank of the Philippine Islands, to retain the Globe Telecom investment.

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SUBIC-CLARK PLAN

Fund lack hamper 2 key infra projects

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TWO key infrastructure projects of the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development (Scad) project—the toll road and railway are likely to remain stalled unless the cash-strapped government earmarks a substantial portion of its budget for counterpart funding and relocation of squatters presently occupying the project site.

Based on the latest report by the Scad Task Force, the government has to complete the 15-percent counterpart funding requirement and issue a government sovereign guarantee for the proposed $400-million Subic-Clark toll road before the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) releases the project's funding.

The Subic-Clark toll road involves the construction of a high-speed, multi-lane, 47.2-kilometer expressway that would give investors access to Subic's deep harbors and Clark's airport.

JBIC has likewise required the government to shoulder the right-of-way clearing and relocation of residents in the North Luzon railway project.

The North Luzon railway was originally meant to provide rapid rail access between Metro Manila and the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga. The 100-km. rail line is envisioned to offer airport express, inter-urban and metro commuter and freight service. Phase I of the project — a 40-km commuter line from Caloocan to Calumpit, Bulacan — is expected to cost $930 million including relocation.

The project has been stuck on the drawing board since the Ramos administration because of the government's inability to get reliable private financiers, escalating project cost due to the peso depreciation, refusal of squatters to abandon their homes, and the huge cost involved in the right-of-way clearing.

While the Scad Task Force noted that both projects have been endorsed by the National Economic and Development Authority, this recommendation is worthless if the government does not have the money or fails to convince investors to sink their money into the Philippines to carry these projects out.

Both projects have been tagged as flagship projects under the past two administrations and skeptics doubt whether the Macapagal administration, which is facing a ballooning budget deficit, has the financial resources to finally carry out the project within its term.

CAB warned vs monopoly

By Raul C. Dancel

THE FREEDOM to Fly Coalition has sounded the alarm against Philippine Airlines Inc. and Air Philippines Corp. crowding competitors out of lucrative destinations abroad, including the United States, Hong Kong and Singapore.

"A monopoly should not be allowed. It leads to price fixing. If you have a monopoly, PAL and Air Philippines will continue to give us lousy services, delayed flights and high air fares," Freedom to Fly's Narzalina Lim, a former tourism secretary, told the INQUIRER.

Lim said a designated flag carrier, Cebu Pacific Air of taipan John Gokongwei Jr., was being prevented by PAL and Air Philippines from operating a flight to Hong Kong.

The Civil Aeronautics Board has given Cebu Pacific and Air Philippines permits to fly abroad.

The air services agreement between the Philippines and Hong Kong allows the country's flag carriers to fly 13,000 seats a week.

PAL is already using almost 10,000 seats. The remainder is equivalent to two more flights a day.

Granting Air Philippines one flight would leave Cebu Pacific with only one flight. Should PAL apply for an additional daily flight, Cebu Pacific would be shut out completely, Lim warned.

Lim said PAL and Air Philippines could not be expected to compete against each other because these airlines were both controlled by only one person, beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan.

She said Freedom to Fly considered it a major victory when the government designated Grand International Airways Inc. as a second flag carrier.

The airline, however, collapsed because of its huge debts.

The coalition had since been working for a second flag carrier, but it viewed the permit given to Air Philippines to fly abroad as a setback.

"The basic concern is that Air Philippines is also owned by Tan. There will still be a monopoly. That's what we are really against," she said.

Lim said PAL had, on many occasions, extended "sweetheart deals" and had even provided financial assistance to Air Philippines.

"We need real competition in the business. We want to see fares go down as has happened in the telecommunications sector. Business is so bad now that this development is not going to help any," Lim said.

Lim said Cebu Pacific, being the only company that could provide real competition to PAL, "should be given all unused entitlements."

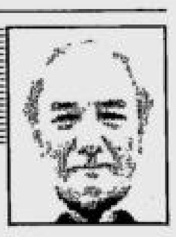
"Clearly, we cannot have real competition with PAL and Air Philippines under the same corporate umbrella," she said.

Teodoro A. Casiño: Portrait of a communist

(Part 2)

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General



TEODORO Casiño, secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), was frothing in the mouth when he wrote to the Letters to the Editor to reply to my piece of June 18. His non-sequiturs, his attacks on my person and his self-serving statements are meant to sidetrack me. It won't work. He is the one with the attitude problem, not me.

Also, to answer the issues I raised, Casiño referred me to Neal Cruz's column of June 19. Casiño is not going to make Cruz and me fight. But, I refer him and Cruz to my column of June 11.

I shall not be sidetracked. Casiño is for low interest rates on SSS members' loans. After all, he says, the member is only borrowing his own money. Charging him a high interest rate, Casiño claims, is a classic case of "*ginisa sa sariling mantika.*" Others more knowledgeable than Casiño have espoused this fallacy.

Yes, the member probably borrows his own money if he takes out a salary or calamity or education loan, limited to P10,000. Taken singly, this loan has little impact on total earnings. But, as of December 1999, these loans came up to almost P20 billion, over 12 percent of total investments. The average interest is as low as 4 percent, not nearly enough to cover overhead.

A housing loan at a low interest rate is worse. Even at the minimum of P180,000, the borrower, no matter how long he has been a member, takes out much more than what he has put into the system. In effect, he borrows money from his fellow members, many of whom are as poor as he is. Housing loan at below market rates impact significantly on earnings because these loans add up to a whopping P45 billion, almost 28 percent of all investments.

I am sure Casiño does not know that the interest on a member's loan has nothing to do with his benefits. The law fixes death and disability benefits. Pensions are based on salary and length of membership. So, if a member borrows at a low interest rate, he is not carrying his share of the load. In fact, he is getting a free ride at the expense of members who do not borrow and whose contributions are placed in higher-yielding investments.

Low-interest loans cut down the capacity of SSS to provide disability and death benefits and are the major reason why many retirees grovel on pensions of P2,000 a month.

In pushing for low-interest loans, Casiño is betting on the wrong side. Only about 200,000 members have taken out P40 billion in housing loans and another 200,000 have taken out P20 billion in those small loans. These loans account for 40 percent of all investments and have been taken out by less than 2 percent of the membership. These low-yielding loans cost the members an estimated P5 billion a year in unrealized earnings. Casiño joins a long list of do-gooders who have taken the side of a few hundred thousands who borrow instead of the millions who do not.

Casiño is against farming out investment management to outside sources. In the private sector, investment management is big business (oops, I shouldn't have said that; Casiño will be frothing in the mouth again) and increasingly necessary in any economy. Even the Sultan of Brunei hires a foreign fund manager.

Casiño should go to the trust department of a bank or the group insurance division of a life insurance company. He will find billions of pesos of private pension funds being managed for clients that include the biggest conglomerates in the country. Are these fund managers big-time profiteers? One who is, will not stay long in the business. His competitors will see to that. But, then, communists like Casiño will never trust a free and open market.

Casiño also says that my claim that the social security system is a capitalist invention is a lot of bull. Oh, yeah? Long before the Soviet Union came into being, there were already social security systems in Europe, notably in England, Germany and France, as an offshoot of the industrial revolution in the 1800s. Our original SSS law was copied, except for the unemployment insurance portion, from the capitalistic US law enacted in 1935. The Soviet Union, supposedly a workers' paradise but in reality a cruel police state, was a latecomer in installing a social security system. For Casiño to try to steal the authorship of the Philippine social security system for his beloved predecessors is a usual communist trick. And that's no bull.

I should have known Casiño is unemployed. Not only that, he is unemployable. Who will want to hire him? Certainly, no insurance company will. In the insurance industry, as in main business, communist troublemakers like Casiño need not apply. I guess this makes him one of the oppressed. My heart bleeds.

Foreign debts down to $49.9B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S foreign debt stock declined by more than 4 percent to $49.949 billion in the first quarter of the year, from $52.06 billion in end-December and from $52.415 billion a year ago.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the net debt payments made by the private sector and the government during the quarter reached a total of $153 million.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in a statement that the $849 million reduction in the liabilities of commercial banks and the revaluation of the loans following the drop in the value of the Japanese yen against the dollar contributed to the decline in the country's foreign debt stock.

From 114.46 yen to $1 in December, the Japanese yen fell to 123.69 to $1 as of end-March.

There were no significant fresh borrowings in the first quarter, according to the central bank. The BSP's $740-million syndicated loan in March was the only foreign borrowing made by the government in the first quarter.

The foreign debt stock data of the BSP covers the foreign borrowings of the government and the private sector that were obtained with the central bank's approval. This, however, does not include the local borrowings of the national government.

By the second quarter, the country's foreign borrowings are expected to grow by at least $500 million following the respective fund-raising activities of the BSP and national government.

Buenaventura claimed that this year's borrowings were obtained at "less onerous" terms compared to last year's fund-raising activities.

Government borrowings this year carry a spread of 3.1 percentage points over London Interbank Offered Rate, better than the 4.3 percentage points applied on the sovereign loans last year.

He noted that the average maturity of the country's foreign debts remained at 17 years as the government pursued efforts to prolong the loans' maturity and keep the interest rates at the lowest possible levels.

Buenaventura said 89.6 percent of the loans consisted of medium-to long-term financing while less than 11 percent was in the form of short-term loans.

Almost half or 48 percent of the external debt was owed to official creditors such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. These loans carry terms that are softer than those on commercial loans.

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There they go again

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

AFTER waging a strident campaign for devaluation/globalization and providing the economic underpinnings of the corrupt Erap administration, the same cabal of economists will today examine the wreckage that their economic prescriptions have wreaked on this country and, then, typical of the discipline's chutzpah, prescribe solutions for the mess that they helped create.

Flushed with fresh foreign funding, these mostly Diliman-based economists will conduct a whole-day conference in a luxury hotel in Ortigas to write a "Yellow Paper"—an appropriate choice of color, indeed—on "The Post-Erap Reform Agenda."

What today's conference organizers will not tell you and even their guest speaker—Joseph Stiglitz of Stanford—is that they are part of the group that cobbled the oxymoronic "Erap Reform Agenda" that they are now trying to discard!

Clobbered Filipino

NO, no, no, we are not referring to Juan de la Cruz/John Q. Public but to the strike-bound club in Greenhills.

Not only is Club Filipino being picketed by its waiters/kitchen staff clamoring for higher wages, the club's board itself is being riven with dissension over its continuing financial hemorrhage.

What is unfortunate is that the club's board, led by longtime president Fortunato Aguas, the Erap-appointed adviser on taxation, had been running the club just like the government—in a deficit.

From July last year to this February, the club had allegedly suffered a net operating loss of P7.9 million, or about P1 million a month.

To be fair to the Aguas group, many of the golf and country clubs in the country are in similar dire straits. The neighboring Wack Wack, for instance, is groaning under the "edifice complex" inflicted on the greens by its cement-and-concrete loving board.

Going back to Club Filipino, Aguas should answer a very serious accusation that he bought bread for the Edsa III rallyists "but required Club Filipino to supply the *palaman*."

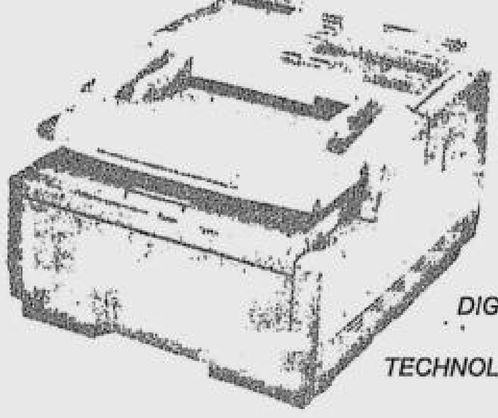
All-out for Josie

JUDGING from the quality and range of recommendations that she has thus far received, there is no reason that former Transportation Undersecretary Josefina Lichauco should not be appointed as the country's next ambassador to the United Nations.

Why, the glowing testimonials from the likes of former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Gabriela secretary general Liza Maza, St. Scholastica's College president Sr. Mary John Mananzan, KBP president Ruperto Nicdao Jr., putative House Speaker Jose de Venecia, and the telecoms industry players are enough to light an entire barangay for a lifetime.

According to the grapevine, President Macapagal-Arroyo had already verbally committed to Lichauco the UN posting. But, in this town, you never know for sure even if the papers had already been signed.

COCKTALES/ B4



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Jollibee

(From page B1)

because of the devaluation of the peso but it's better than the situation other companies are in," Navarette said.

After Chowking, Navarette said that JFC was not keen on any new acquisitions.

"We believe that we have a lot of things on our plate and that we have a lot of businesses that can generate the kind of value for our shareholders that we want," he said.

To hedge against the volatility of the peso against the dollar, Navarette said JFC was taking dollar positions to the extent required by the company's dollar payables, which amounted about $50 million to $60 million a month, mostly from the purchase of beef from Australia.

"We also enter into long-term arrangements with our suppliers that enable us to lock in the price, for example of beef, for the rest of the year. So those kind of things shield us from interim volatility," he said.

Established in 1978, the Jollibee brand now has 400 stores in the Philippines, the only place in the world where McDonald's is not number one in the quick-service restaurant business. It diversified its brand by acquiring Greenwich Pizza Corp. in 1994 and Chowking Food Corp. in 2000. Its systemwide sales reached P20 billion as of end-2000.

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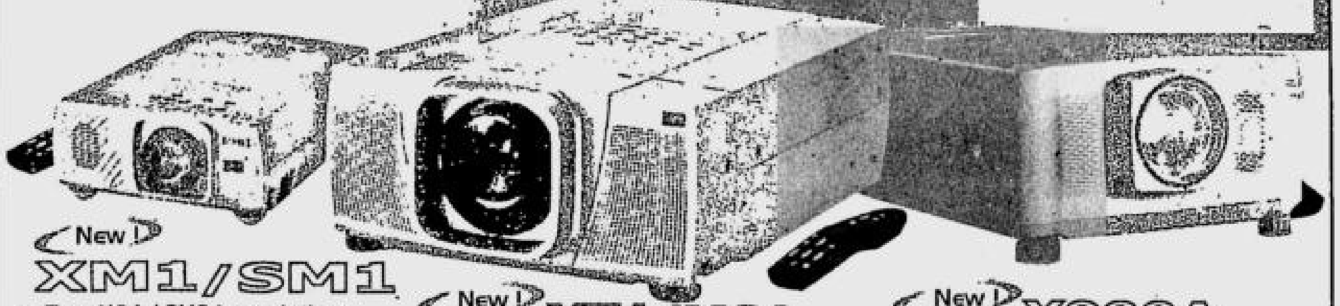

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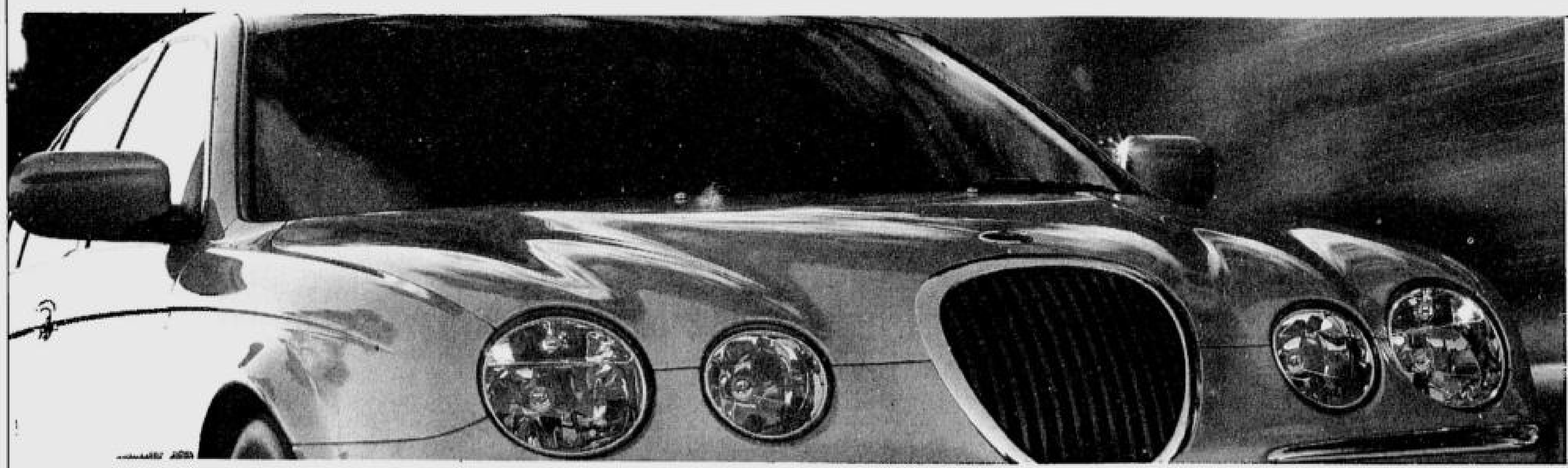

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JAGUAR
THE ART *of* PERFORMANCE.

Court orders SEC to resolve IBC-13 row

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COURT of Appeals has directed the Securities and Exchange Commission to decide on the 15-year ownership dispute involving the 20-percent stake in Intercontinental Broadcasting Corp. (IBC-13) being claimed by the media network's former chief.

The appellate court pointed out in a ruling late last month that the SEC had gravely abused its discretion in refusing to decide on the case while instead seeking to pass the buck to the regular courts, according to documents obtained by the Inquirer.

Following the release of the order last month, the SEC filed a motion for reconsideration on the CA ruling that had favored the petitioner, former IBC-13 president and general manager Jose Jalandoon.

Jalandoon, on the other hand, sought from the CA a clarificatory ruling that would bring him another step closer to regaining his shares in the company. He asked the appellate court to compel the SEC to uphold the Aug. 22, 2000, decision handed down by its own hearing officer George Palmares who had litigated the IBC-13 case.

Palmares decided that Jalandoon should be entitled to regain control of 10,000 shares, equivalent to two of the nine board seats in the country's third biggest broadcasting company. This decision, however, was not acted upon by the SEC en banc, which said the SEC would instead transfer to the regional trial court the litigation on the case.

Palmares' decision, if upheld by the en banc, would have allowed Jalandoon to exercise his preemptive rights and even gain dominant control of IBC-13 once the government sells the 80-percent stake it had sequestered from the Benedicto family, which has been identified with strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

The third division of the appellate court noted that the SEC could not invoke the new Securities Regulation Code (Republic Act 8799) in wanting to keep its hands off the case because the law stated that it should retain jurisdiction over pending intra-corporate disputes submitted for final resolution before the effectivity of the act.

"Since petitioner's case was submitted for final resolution on July 28, 2000, and since RA 8799 took effect only on Aug. 8, 2000, the petitioner's case should have remained within the jurisdiction of the (SEC) and decided by it pursuant to the Aug. 1, 1989 Rules of the Commission, as amended," the ruling said.

"To do otherwise as what public respondent has done constitutes denial of due process to petitioner. By declaring to transfer jurisdiction of (Jalandoon's) case to the regular courts in clear violation of the law and its own guidelines, the commission has deprived petitioner of a remedy or right, which therefore amounts to grave abuse of discretion," it stressed.

Jalandoon has also challenged the Presidential Commission on Good Government's earlier efforts to proceed with the privatization of the media network despite the unresolved ownership dispute. However, the PCGG's efforts to sell the company failed to attract bidders last year anyway.

Jalandoon was ousted from IBC-13 management when the media network was sequestered after the Edsa Revolution as an 80-percent stake in the company was among the assets surrendered by the Benedictos to the PCGG. This was at the height of the crackdown by the Aquino administration on the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their alleged cronies.

IBC-13 earlier authorized the PCGG to file a joint motion with Jalandoon in the Supreme Court to litigate the claim over the 20-percent stake in the network.

The SEC's jurisdiction was earlier being questioned on the premise that IBC-13 was a sequestered asset and that any question should be raised to the Sandiganbayan, which has the original and exclusive jurisdiction over sequestration cases. But Palmares explained that after the compromise between the PCGG and the Benedictos, even the Supreme Court had already recognized its mandate to litigate the case.

RP cement firms see relief from dumping

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Cement Manufacturers Corp. is optimistic that it would get its long-awaited relief on cement imports within the next three to six months after the Department of Trade and Industry finally started preliminary investigation of the unusual surge of Taiwan cement shipments to the country since 1999.

In a letter to Philcemcor's counsel, Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the DTI has decided to investigate Philcemcor's allegations of dumping against Taiwan Cement Corp. under the Safeguard Measures Act instead of the Anti-Dumping Law.

Roxas has directed Philcemcor and Taiwan Cement of billionaire Jeffrey Koo to forward their documents that would bolster their cases.

Philcemcor is betting it would get a favorable ruling and quicker relief under the Safeguard Measures Act with which affected industries need only to prove an unusual surge in imports to get immediate relief from the government in the form of a dumping duty. Industries get immediate relief even without going through the lengthy and difficult process of proving that these shipments have actually hurt their operations, which is mandatory in the Anti-Dumping Law.

The government can impose higher tariffs and import quotas in critical circumstances in which a delay would cause a damage ,which would be difficult to repair. It is also mandated to render a decision within 90 days after the start of the formal probe.

Philcemcor said it was confident that a favorable ruling against Taiwan Cement would discourage more cement imports from other countries such as Indonesia, China, Korea and Thailand. Philcemcor claimed that cement imports have doubled their market share from roughly 10 percent last year to more than 20 percent this year due to alleged dumping or sale of cement below market price.

Philcemcor has accused Taiwan Cement of selling cement at $20 a ton here against its home price of $60 to $65 a ton in Taiwan. It claimed that Taiwan Cement has cost the local cement industry a total of P14.9 billjon in damages (P3.5 billion from lost market share and P11.4 billion from price suppression) and 23,400 in job losses.

Cocktales . . .

(From page B3)

Insecurities

THE SINGAPOREAN president of the shuttered UOB Securities could use a sensitivity-training seminar, pronto.

For still unclear reasons, the president, Michael Huang, barred the brokerage employees from entering their Salcedo Village office on their last day of work. The 20 or so staff had planned for a dinner farewell party of sorts but Huang's order somehow dampened their already dejected spirits.

Of the local staff, only the accountant and Huang's trusted assistant, one Nora Villones, were allowed entrance.

Heard through the grapevine

FORMER Finance Undersecretary now Bank of Commerce director Edgardo del Fonso has agreed to serve as president of the newly created Power Sector Asset Liabilities Management Corp.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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Sun Life exec bullish on RP

THE SUN Life Financial Group of Companies, one of the biggest life insurance firms in North America, is bullish on the long-term prospects of the Philippine capital market.

Douglas C. Henck, executive vice president for Asian Operations of Sun Life Financial, said investor confidence in the local equities market was slowly being restored.

Riding on this positive belief, he said that in addition to more investments in equities, investors were now ready to look and buy into more sophisticated forms of investments such as mutual funds.

A mutual fund is an investment company that pools money from its shareholders and invests it in a diversified portfolio of securities.

According to Henck, the Philippines was ready to support the mutual fund industry. He said he believed that "the Philippine (mutual fund) market will grow and I think it will grow faster than the markets in America."

"It's a business to be in and we're going to help the Philippines and the Filipino consumer to grow with us in that market. It's a good time for us to invest (in the Philippines) just like it's a good time for people to invest in mutual funds," he added.

Many financial advisers recommend regularly investing in mutual funds, whether in an equity, balanced or bond fund, over a long period of time. Investments in a mutual fund normally fluctuate in value, depending on the prevailing market price of the underlying assets. By taking on a long-term investment time horizon, investors have the option to take on additional risks to enhance the return on their investments.

Henck also advised investors to diversify their portfolio and to let professional fund managers handle it. Henck said that for a player in the equities market, following the various individual stocks was almost impossible to do.

Stock market stories

ON THE MONEY

John Mangun

STOCK prices continued the second-quarter consolidation trading pattern, maintaining the 1500 top and the 1400 bottom. And how long it is going to last? No one can really say. But then again, can we expect anything else? Just when one problem appears to be solved, another arises.

It is really tough to talk about the potential for a quick rally in the stock market, when no less than the President of the country admits that there are plots to destabilize the government. It is impossible to expect peace and harmony when groups are actively plotting more nefarious adventures in crime. It is hard to see any light at the end of the tunnel when the financial markets, both here and abroad, are nervous and apprehensive about the future. There are not many positive stories creating positive attitudes about the future.

However, that is not the case at the Philippine Stock Exchange. In the last two months, no less than 25 percent of all the traded issues have increased by 10 percent or more. In the face of adversity and gloom, many individual issues are performing amazingly well. There is good price increases combined with active trading. But actually if you look more closely, it is not too surprising that prices are increasing. There are some very interesting stories concerning many companies listed on the exchange. Some of the stories are fact. Some are speculation. Nevertheless, the stories have prompted investors to take their money out of their pocket and buy these stocks up. Here are some of the stocks that have risen in the last two months and some of the stories that have accounted for the rise.

It is not up much but PLDT (TEL) is generating interest. The stock bounced off an important support near P600 a few weeks ago. Closing last Friday at P725, the price is up 20 percent from the low. Investors are realizing that PLDT will be taking over GMA broadcasting in a couple of months. What is their corporate strategy? At this point, it is unclear, but the possibilities are exciting. PLDT is not an innovative company and that they rarely create something new. However, the current management is good at buying other people's creativity and making money from it. After many years, I finally like PLDT. Next resistance is P800 then P900.

The RFM group of companies, headed by the Concepcion family is in trouble. They are one of those that had been severely damaged by the weak peso. It borrowed a lot of foreign denominated money and has seen that debt double due to the peso's fall. Assets have to be sold to pay the debt and maybe Cosmos Bottling (CBC) is next. The stock is up 50 percent on that possibility. What is a fair price for CBC? Book value is about P2 but there is hidden value that has put speculation of a buyout at P7. The company's profit margins are very high. Debt is low and manageable. Cash flow is excellent. Oh, and maybe San Miguel would like to own the competition for the low-end soft drink market. I hate to see RFM give it up but any buyer gets a jewel. The all time high is around P6 with current resistance at P5.40.

AJOnet Holdings (AJO) has always been a company looking for a good project. A few months ago, they bought 100 percent of a local company called QNET. It is a telecommunications company providing inexpensive video conferencing using the Internet as the vehicle to cut costs. They have set up kiosks in several local malls and in Hong Kong to allow OCWs to talk to and see their families. More than 2000 people have already signed up for their services in the last three months. PLDT is a big partner with QNET and could be a potential suitor in the future as QNET develops and owns the software to make their system work. AJO also has about P90 million tied up at Urban Bank, which will soon be (at least partially) freed up. Rumors persist of a large buy in. AJO definitely has found a winning project that has great money making potential. There is resistance at P1.75 and then P4.

The big flyer has been Itogon-Suyoc Mining (ISM).

This has been a company looking for a reason to exist. Always a potential for a back door listing, nothing has ever come of it. This time the story involves "TonyBoy" Cojuangco and his satellite Internet company. With the new SEC rules, a backdoor listing is much more difficult than it used to be, but still doable. And this group has the money and I think the patience to pull it off. Do not confuse that collapse of the garbage Internet companies in the US with what is happening here in the Philippines. This is all about technology, not selling products over the Net. ISM makes sense for a buy-in group to take it over. Resistance is at P0.0775 and then at P0.10.

You want more stories? Fairmont Holdings (FAIR), majority owned by Megaworld (MEG) is going to be the third piece of Andrew Tan's property empire. MEG for high end, Empire East (ELI) for mid range, and FAIR for lower cost developments. It is a good idea. DMC Holdings (DMC) is in a turnaround situation after several years. When property improves, DMC flies high again. Another turnaround company is A. Soriano (ANS), with new acquisitions. International Container (ICT), although confusing with its numbers, has sold assets for big amount of money.

Investors seem to be shifting their focus from the front page to the business page. What they are finding are stories that make sense and will make them money.

Finally, I must thank Mayet from Tisa, Cebu City, for her letter. Sometimes I think my words fall on deaf ears and comments like yours make it worthwhile. Speaking of deaf ears, I received a call from a Mr. Concepcion of the Department of Agricultural regarding my comments several weeks ago about a new technology to increase food production. My faith in government was partially restored.

(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 to 35, Fax No. 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)

BSP wants PNB equity issue resolved

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas wants Lucio Tan and the national government to settle within the month the ownership issue on Philippine National Bank so that the rehabilitation of the ailing bank could be tackled immediately.

"Their target is to complete the negotiations within July and we are hoping they would do that so we could start the rehab of PNB," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The terms of the rehabilitation were also part of the items being discussed by the taipan and the government team led by Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president and PNB chair Norberto Nazareno.

The negotiation focuses, however, on the price that Tan and the government would agree to convert a portion of the P25 billion in loans extended by BSP and PDIC to PNB last October into government equity.

The price would also determine the extent by which Tan's ownership would be diluted from 67 percent, taking into account his P10-billion capital infusion last October on top of the billions in pesos he had spent to acquire his earlier stake.

Buenaventura explained that the BSP's P15 billion and PDIC's P10 billion in loans to PNB would be lumped and treated as national government exposure to the country's sixth largest bank that was burdened with huge losses and bad loans.

He said a portion of the loans would be converted into equity and a portion would be used to pay off P10 billion to P13 billion in state obligations absorbed by PNB.

The bank, Buenaventura said, may even be willing to pay the remaining portion of the P25 billion in emergency loans after the debt conversion. "A lot of things really depend on the valuation and the ongoing negotiation," he said.

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Political uncertainties seen to dampen interest in stocks

By Doris C. Dumlao

MARKET PLAY

STOCKS are seen to drift sideways this week as the market continues to grope for the bottom after a week-long downturn.

Summit Securities president Harry Liu said the market was still apprehensive about developments on the political front and that investors would be looking out for stronger signals on how the President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration would address the recent crises.

This developed as domestic concerns such as the rumored plans of the Abu Sayyaf to bring a bomb squad to Metro Manila, a military coup, and a terrorist plot to assassinate former President Estrada, coupled with the eruption of Mayon Volcano in Bicol, weighed down market sentiment last week and weakened the peso's value to 52.395 to $1 from the previous week's close of 52.27.

Liu said the market would likely move sideways but the bias would still be on the downside.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped by another 30 points or 2.1 percent week-on-week to close at 1,410.07 on Friday amid losses in the financial and property sectors.

Crucial week

"A closer circumspection on the country's political angle will be highlighted during the week while fund managers analyze how well Ms Macapagal's administration can diffuse political tension over alleged bomb threats in the metropolis. Market contrarians might take advantage of prevailing short-term nuisances, focusing on whether the Phisix would hold above 1,400," 2tradeasia.com said in its weekly outlook.

In case of unexpected negative developments, 2tradeasia.com said the Phisix might test 1,370 to 1,380.

"What is worthwhile to note, however, are attempts that catapulted the Phisix back to 1,400 given the international community's belief on the competence of Macapagal's leadership," 2tradeasia.com said.

The stock market portal also said investors would continue to monitor what would happen to the exchange rate although it noted that the present situation was different to that which dragged the peso to an all-time low of 55.75 to $1 amid the political turmoil in January.

"Moreover, there's no strong fundamental reason why the Philippine peso should wobble as much, since factors supporting its recent descent are purely sentiment-driven. Unfortunately, listed companies may have to allocate more provisions for foreign exchange losses based on the peso's quarter-end closing of 52.395 to $1. We believe these provisions would be reversed in the ensuing months, once authorities compress all domestic uncertainties," 2tradeasia.com said.

The prudent strategy, 2tradeasia.com said, would be to steer clear from foreign debt-saddled stocks with no adequate hedges (dependent on peso-based receipts) and weak operating cash flow. Given the deteriorating state of the peso, it also said that monetary authorities' decision to keep benchmark rates for the time being might force players to lighten their position on property counters.

Inflation figure

"Meanwhile, the release of inflation figures late within the week might also keep investors on their toes. The expectation is for inflation results to average 6.8 percent, slightly higher vis-à-vis May's 6.7 percent," it said.

The best thing to do, 2tradeasia.com said, was to trade cautiously and to scout for buying opportunities when the market weakens and opt for modest gains on rises.

Meanwhile, Liu said among the stocks to watch for this week included First Philippine Holdings, Cosmos Bottling Corp. and RFM Corp. He said the market would also be looking forward to the outcome of the talks over the Lopez group's debt-ridden Bayan Telecommunications Inc. He said there would still be some buying opportunities for blue chips SM Prime Holdings, San Miguel Corp. and La Tondeña Distillers Inc.

PCCI Securities Brokers Corp. noted that on a monthly basis, the rally being indicated by the May charts failed to materialize in June.

"The support range continued to hold. A bullish rounding bottom is not yet apparent, but some other bottom-reversal formations can be awaited, but on a monthly basis. For the time being, dip-buying then selling on small rally remains the recommended strategy," it said.

PLDT expects to finalize GMA buyout by end-August

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co., through its wholly owned subsidiary Mediaquest Holdings Inc., said it was set to finalize its acquisition of GMA Network Inc. by end-August.

"The due-diligence is going according to schedule. The next step is the signing of the final purchase agreement and the transfer of the franchise," Mediaquest president and CEO Antonio Samson said in an interview after the PLDT stockholders' meeting last Friday.

He said the franchise has not yet been approved, but added he was confident that they would get congressional approval soon since "it's just an issue of change of management and control."

As to who will head the country's second biggest broadcast network after the deal has been completed, Samson said it was "premature to be talking about who will run it because someone's running it now."

Aside from operating the second highest-rating station on free television, Channel 7, GMA also operates Channel 27 (Channel V Philippines) on UHF and 42 AM and FM radio stations nationwide.

"For the UHF channel, we're still on the speculative stage. We have to decide what to do with channel 27, to determine its niche. We're already developing a strategy for that," Samson said.

GMA also has affiliates and subsidiaries in the cinema, commercial production, high-end post-production, electronic outdoor advertising, publishing and e-commerce businesses. It also has a 50-percent stake in the information portal Inq7.net, a joint venture with the Philippine Daily INQUIRER.

With these services already in place, Samson said it was hard to say whether or not they would still make more acquisitions after they have closed the deal with GMA.

"So far, we're very pleased with what we've engaged in, specially the Eleksyon 2001 that brought together different media, including Mediaquest, PLDT and GMA. It was a clear case of convergence," he said.

Earlier in the year, PLDT signed a memorandum of agreement with GMA to acquire a 66.67-percent stake in the broadcast network for P8.5 billion.

Right now, Samson said they have no plans to change the amount of their stake as well as its value.

"We got very positive reactions (regarding the price)," he added.

As for a strategic partner, PLDT president and CEO Manuel Pangilinan disclosed in an earlier interview that they were still in talks with a potential foreign partner for GMA.

"We are confident that we'll get one or two. It's still in discussion," he said.

Meanwhile, in his president's report during the stockholders' meeting, he said that acquiring GMA would complete PLDT's convergence strategy by owning not only the communications distribution pipeline but also the content it delivers.

He also reported a surge in revenue in PLDT's cellular service as well as data and other network services.

Its cellular business, through wholly owned subsidiary Smart Communications Inc., accounted for 25.2 percent of PLDT's P62.903 billion in total operating revenues, an almost 50-percent growth from 1999 figures.

Its data and other network services, on the other hand, made up 5.2 percent of the total operating revenues, posting a growth of more than 40 percent.

However, its net income dropped by nearly 70 percent from P3.09 billion in 1999 to P1.11 billion last year.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, June 29, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	1,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	73.5	73.5	72.5	73	258,400
China Banking Corp.	650	650	650	650	1,010
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	37.5	37.5	36.5	36.5	76,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	205	205	200	202	319,330
Philippine National Bank	43	43.5	43	43.5	24,100
Phil. Savings Bank	30	30	30	30	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	20.5	21	20.5	21	17,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	26	26	1,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.4	12,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	160,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	247	250	247	250	350
Manulife Financial Corp.	1380	1380	1380	1380	3,560
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1160	1175	1160	1175	26,990
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	700
Diversified Fin. Network	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	1,110,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	700	670	695	3,369,320
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	97,000
Piltel	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	330,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.32	1,140,000
Phil. Long Di. Tel Co.	735	745	725	725	123,370
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.039	0.039	0.037	0.038	46,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	38.5	38.5	38	38	27,700
Manila Electric Co. B	55	55.5	55	55.5	484,100
Petron Corp.	2.14	2.24	2.14	2.24	5,855,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.99	1	0.99	1	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.44	2.34	2.4	4,777,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.45	0.5	0.45	0.5	350,000
William Gothong & Aboitiz	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	1,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	50,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	560,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	7	7.9	7	7.9	14,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	3,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.16	1.2	2,435,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	25,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.4	1,111,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	317,400
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	26.5	27	26.5	27	161,200
Rfm Corp.	1.66	1.7	1.58	1.64	3,686,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42	42	41	41.5	13,300
San Miguel Corp. B	46.5	47.5	46.5	47.5	222,700
Universal Robina Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	89,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.77	0.84	0.77	0.83	1,880,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.77	0.84	0.77	0.84	290,000
Ayala Corp.	7.1	7.1	7	7	1,008,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.46	3,872,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.75	1,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.14	1.22	1.14	1.2	1,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	200,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	5,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	90,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	700,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.75	13	12.75	13	3,200
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.66	1.58	1.64	6,802,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	30,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	8,990,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	1,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	69,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28	29	28	28.5	761,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
Ionics Inc.	11	11.25	11	11.25	6,300
Ipeople Inc.	1	1.2	1	1.2	21,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.02	2.04	1,421,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.42	1,440,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.75	0.76	0.75	0.75	520,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	270,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	3,770,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	58,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.5	2,620,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5	5	5	5	46,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,240,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.25	2,210,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De La Carlota	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	42,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	100,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	100,000
Music Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.84	1.84	401,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	30,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.1	0.095	0.1	1,400,000
Pryce Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	500,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	7	7	7	7	8,273,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.91	70,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	750,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.57	2,860,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	52,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40	40	40	40	841,900
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	500	500	500	500	200
Equitable PCI Bank-War	2.34	2.34	1.92	1.92	472,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	695	700	660	685	11,310
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	100
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	269,000,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.028	0.029	0.027	0.028	122,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	2,140,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.25	0.25	6,090,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	14,610,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.34	1.04	1.04	3,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.24	2.26	2.24	2.26	15,063,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.23	70,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2	2	2	2	24,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	550,000
SM Development Corp.	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.8	180,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	11,045,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.085	0.085	0.08	0.08	2,600,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	30,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	37,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	341,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.9	2.28	1.9	2.28	79,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.0525	0.0575	0.0525	0.0525	117,100,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.0575	0.0575	0.055	0.055	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0046	0.0042	0.0046	593,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	14,400,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.4	4,120,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.42	0.43	0.4	0.42	9,530,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	400,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	45,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	12,000,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	9,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.17	2,800,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	907,340	125,102,330.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	527,136,700	2,709,403,365.00
PRO	53,005,000	120,477,540.00
Mining	817,870,000	16,298,660.00
OIL	69,800,000	819,800.00
GRAND TOTALS :	1,468,719,040	2,972,101,695.00

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	574.26	DOWN 5.95
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,007.23	UP 9.57
PRO	530.14	DOWN 7.81
Mining	1,408.01	DOWN 7.25
OIL	1.45	DOWN 0.01
All Shares Index	781.16	UP 6.92
Composite	1,410.07	DOWN 4.72

NO. OF ADVANCES: 47; NO. OF DECLINES: 35; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 53; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 135; NO. OF TRADES: 3,057

CURRENCIES

June 29, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.184133	1.000000	52.3660
Japan	Yen	0.009499	0.008022	0.4201
United Kingdom	Pound	1.667851	1.408500	73.7575
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.152007	0.128370	6.7222
Switzerland	Franc	0.657852	0.555556	29.0922
Canada	Dollar	0.778317	0.657289	34.4196
Singapore	Dollar	0.649801	0.548757	28.7362
Australia	Dollar	0.605075	0.510986	26.7583
Bahrain	Dinar	3.141102	2.652661	138.9092
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.315769	0.266667	13.9643
Brunei	Dollar	0.648307	0.547495	28.6701
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000087	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.026163	0.022095	1.1570
UAE	Dirham	0.322476	0.272331	14.2609
Korea	Won	0.000909	0.000768	0.0402
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.844500	44.2231
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.431786	22.6109
France	Franc	0.152450	0.128743	6.7418
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.383217	20.0675
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.061372	3.2138
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.020935	1.0963
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000436	0.0228
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.142035	7.4378
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004212	0.2206
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005076	0.2658
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.020935	1.0963
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.072294	56.1517

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CLUB	SELLING	BUYING
Alabang A	-	1,900,000
Alabang B	Pls. Call	2,100,000
Baguio CC	Pls. Call	800,000
Capitol Hills	140,000	125,000
Camp John Hay	350,000	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	400,000	-
Celebrity Sports	205,000	Pls. Call
Club Filipino	300,000	Pls Call
Eagleridge	450,000	Pls. Call
Evercrest	130,000	-
Filipinas Golf	350,000	300,000
Fontana C	140,000	110,000
Fontana D	90,000	-
Forest Hills A	240,000	Pls. Call
Malarayat	450,000	Pls. Call
Manila Golf	15,000,000	-
Manila Polo	3,700,000	3,000,000
Manila Southwoods A	800,000	Pls. Call
Manila Southwoods B	930,000	900,000
Mimosa A	Pls. Call	200,000
Mimosa C2	300,000	-
Orchard	300,000	Pls. Call
Sta Elena	2,200,000	Pls. Call
Subic Golf	310,000	-
Subic Yacht Club	450,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay CC	420,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Midlands	850,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	1,100,000	900,000
Tivoli Royale	230,000	-
Valle Verde	190,000	Pls. Call
Wack-wack	8,000,000	8,500,000

Playing Rights available lessor

Alabang	60,000	Tagaytay CC	40,000
Eagleridge	50,000	Tagaytay Midlands	50,000
Orchard	Best Buy!	Tagaytay Highlands	50,000
Manila Southwoods	50,000	Wack-wack	90,000

GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of July 2, 2001

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,900,000	2,100,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	2,100,000	2,300,000
Baguio Country Club	750,000	800,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	105,000	115,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	160,000
Camp John Hay	-	350,000
Canlubang	850,000	900,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	130,000	145,000
Cebu Country Club	1,900,000	2,000,000
Celebrity Sports Club	200,000	Please Call
Club Filipino	-	330,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	110,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	260,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	400,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	375,000	400,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	450,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	17,500,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	14,500,000	15,000,000
Manila Polo	3,200,000	3,600,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	750,000	800,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	900,000	1,000,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	180,000	-
Metropolitan Club "B"		230,000
Mimosa Golf & Country Club (Corporate)	-	400,000
Montemar (Individual)	Please Call	-
Mt. Malarayat	300,000	400,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	-	280,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	400,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	500,000
Philippine Columbian	85,000	-
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	150,000	220,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	230,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C"	Please Call	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	220,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,700,000	2,000,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,200,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	450,000	550,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	250,000
Tagaytay Country Club	390,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	-	1,100,000
Tagaytay Midlands	800,000	850,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	180,000	220,000
Valley Golf	270,000	
Wack-Wack Golf Club	8,200,000	8,500,000

PLAYING RIGHTS
(Available Lessees)

Manila Golf	450,000

(Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	40,000	Mimosa Golf	20,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	20,000
Canlubang	70,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	30,000	Sta. Elena	70,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	30,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	65,000
Manila Southwoods	40,000	Tivoli Royale	20,000
Makati Sports "A"	35,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	600,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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Partial List 06/29/2001 | Share Swapping: Please Call

CLUBS	ASKED Price	CLUBS	BID Price
CAMP JOHN HAY	450,000	ALABANG "A"	1,950,000
CC @ TAGAYTAY	500,000	BAGUIO CC	800,000
CLUB FILIPINO	280,000	CALATAGAN "A"	110,000
FOREST HILLS "A"/"C"	.30 M/ 45 M	CELEBRITY CLUB	200,000
MAKATI SPORTS "A"/"B"	43M/ 45M	EAGLERIDGE "B"	300,000
MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	15,000,000	MANILA GOLF (CORP.)	16,250,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	4,000,000	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,500,000
MIMOSA (CORP.)	380,000	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	900,000
ORCHARD "B"/"C"	.60M/ 65M	METROPOLITAN "A"	160,000
RIVIERA "A" / "B"	.30 M/ 425 M	ORCHARD "A"	280,000
SHERWOOD HILLS "A"	230,000	PUNTA FUEGO	Please call
STA. ELENA "A"	2,000,000	QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	225,000
SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP)	550,000	STA. ELENA "B"	2,200,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	850,000	WACK WACK GOLF	Call now

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	Call now
CANLUBANG	55,000	MIMOSA (INDIV)	5,000
MAKATI SPORTS	30,000	STA. ELENA "A"	80,000
MANILA GOLF	500 000	WACK WACK	100 000

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SELLING:

Alabang A/B	1.950M/2 2M
Baguio Country Club	760,000
Camp John Hay Golf	330,000
Canyon Woods	280,000
Capitol Hills	140,000
Celebrity	205,000
Club Filipino	280,000
CC at Tagaytay Highland	415,000
Eagle Ridge A/B	400,000
Fontana A B C D	Please call
Forest Hill "A" / B / C	250/280/400
Manila Golf (Indv.)	14.3M
Manila Golf (Cor.)	17M
Manila Polo	3.500M
Manila Southwoods "A" / B	760/930
Makati Sports "A"/B	395,000/450,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"/"C"	305,000/Pls. Call
Orchard "A"/B/C	275/350/600
Puerto Azul	160,000
Quezon City Sports	225,000
Riviera "A"/"B"/"C"	225/260,500
Sta. Elena A	1.880M
Subic Yacht (Indv.) & Corp.	Please call
Tagaytay Highland Club	415,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	950,000
Valle Verde CC	190,000
Valley Golf	300,000
Wack Wack	8.5 M

BUYING:

Alabang A/B	1.940M/2.150M
Baguio Country Club	750,000
Capitol Hills	135,000
Celebrity	200,000
CC at Tagaytay Highland	400,000
Eagle Ridge A/B	400,000/530,000
Fontana A,B,C,D	Please call
Forest Hill "A" / B / C	260/280/400
Manila Golf (Indv.)	14M
Manila Southwoods A / B	780/930
Mt. Malarayat A/C	395/Please call
Orchard A/B/C	260/350/600
Puerto Azul	150,000
Quezon City Sports	225,000
Riviera "A" / B / C	225/280/500
Sta. Elena A/B	1.880M/2.2M
Tagaytay Highland Club	400,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	950,000
Valle Verde CC	180,000
Valley Golf	300,000
Wack Wack	8.3M

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AS OF JUNE 29, 2001

		ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
1	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	2,000,000.00	-
2	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	2,400,000.00	-
3	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	700,000.00
4	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	110,000.00	-
5	CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	-	800,000.00
6	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB	400,000.00	350,000.00
7	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	-	135,000.00
8	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	please call	-
9	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	480,000.00	-
10	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	-	400,000.00
11	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	550,000.00	-
12	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	450,000.00	-
13	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,800,000.00	3,500,000.00
14	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	16,200,000.00	-
15	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	870,000.00	700,000.00
16	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	-	900,000.00
17	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	30,000.00	-
18	MT. MALARAYAT "B"	550,000.00	450,000.00
19	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	260,000.00	-
20	PHIL. COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	-	85,000.00
21	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	240,000.00	-
22	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "A"	300,000.00	
23	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,000,000.00	
24	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	350,000.00	-
25	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	950,000.00	900,000.00
26	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	850,000.00	-
27	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	190,000.00	-
28	VERDEMAR GOLF CLUB, INC. (CEBU)	please call	-
29	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		8,400,000.00
30	THE COUNTRY CLUB	8,500,000.00	-
31	OTHERS	please call	

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

DBP facilities offer P23.5B for re-lending

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines last Friday said it had earmarked P23.5 billion for re-lending, through various credit facilities, to small and medium term enterprises for their acquisition of cleaner and nonpollutant technologies.

The funds are available to conduit banks that will, in turn, re-lend to end-borrowers. The credit facilities include the Industrial Support and Services Expansion Program 2, the second phase of the Environmental Infrastructure Support Credit Program and the Industrial Pollution Control Loan Project phase 2.

In a speech during the launching of the banking sector's Statement for Environment and Sustainable Development, DBP president Remedios Macalincag said that DBP's decision to make available the funds through other banks was aimed at reaching as many end-borrowers as possible. "This will enable the clients, big and small, of other banks to modernize and venture into cleaner operations within the shortest possible time," Macalincag said.

"At present, many of our industries need to modernize, enhance efficiency and improve environmental performance to make them globally competitive," she noted.

She pointed out that the amount available for 'environmental lending' might appear huge but this was still lower than industry requirements.

Recent studies of the environment and natural resources department estimated that P60 billion to P600 billion was needed for environmental investments of industries.

The Philippine commercial banking sector, through the Bankers Association of the Philippines, last Friday launched its statement of support for environmental and sustainable development by encouraging other institutions to pursue environmental protection and pollution prevention through lending and technical assistance programs.

Gov't urged to reclassify sugar as sensitive product

By Christine A. Gaylican

LOCAL sugar producers and millers have asked the government to reclassify sugar as a highly sensitive commodity for higher tariff protection and extended tariff reduction schedule.

At present, only rice is considered a highly sensitive commodity. Sugar belongs to the country's sensitive list of commodities subject to a 65-percent tariff protection and a tariff reduction schedule under the Asean Free Trade Area that will bring down its import duty to a range of zero to 5 percent by 2004.

Reclassifying sugar as highly sensitive will raise its tariff shield to 80 percent and extend its tariff reduction schedule up to 2010.

"If sugar remains in the sensitive list of agricultural products, the current tariff will eventually fall to zero to 5 percent by 2004. This will be detrimental to the sugar industry," Philippine Sugar Millers Association Inc. executive director Jose Ma. T. Zabaleta said in a public hearing at the Tariff Commission last week.

Zabaleta said his group raised the tariff issue and the need to review the Philippines' commitments to Afta and the World Trade Organization in a recent economic ministerial meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

"We have stressed in our proposal that the tariff on sugar should be placed at 80 percent by 2004 to be gradually reduced yearly until 2010. This was well received because we have argued that other Asean-member countries like Thailand does not even allow sugar imports," said Zabaleta.

Under the CEPT (Common Effective Preferential Tariff) scheme of the Afta, sugar is classified under the Temporary Exclusion List.

The extension of the tariff reduction schedule to 2010, he said, would give the local sugar industry enough time to improve efficiency and become globally competitive.

Philippine Sugar Millers Association Inc., the Confederation of Sugar Producers Association Inc. and the Sugar Industry Foundation also asked for the repeal of Executive Order 71 issued and signed by former President Estrada. The order lowered the tariffs on special granulated sugar used by the beverage industry to 20 percent from 50 percent.

"Local sugar millers have invested in equipment to manufacture these special granulated sugar, used primarily for fruit juice concentrates. All of a sudden, the Estrada administration issued EO 71 without any public consultations," said Zabaleta.

SEC junks SCCP petition for permanent license

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has rejected the petition of the Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines, the clearing arm of the Philippine Stock Exchange, for a permanent license pending the conversion of the exchange into a stock corporation.

Instead, the Commission en banc, in a meeting Thursday, approved the extension of SCCP's temporary license until Sept. 30 this year, SEC documents showed.

In granting SCCP a provisional license to operate on Nov. 24, 1998, the commission envisioned that SCCP would act as the central clearing and settlement agency for all equities transactions coursed through the PSE.

The commission also maintained that the granting of a permanent license to SCCP was tied to the full implementation by SCCP of the delivery-versus-payment mode of settlement, the proper administration of the Clearing and Trade Guarantee Fund and the implementation of a risk monitoring and management mechanism.

The SEC noted that SCCP had substantially complied with the DVP requirement but the clearing arm has yet to set up the CTGF and implement various initiatives for risk monitoring and management.

In a memorandum to the Commission en banc, Graciano Felizmenio Jr., assistant director of the SEC's exchange division, said there had been reports that the PSE, being a majority owner of the SCCP, was planning to restructure the SCCP into a profit center.

"The final plans for the SCCP by the PSE might run counter to the policy set by the commission. Thus, there is a need for the commission to be more prudent in ruling out the granting of a permanent license to SCCP," Felizmenio said.

"A stable clearing and settlement process is crucial to any market system. Without it, the consummation of the trading process is put to risk. In fact, sophisticated investors take into consideration in their investment decisions the settlement process," the SEC official said.

GOINGS-ON

Aircraft facility

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—A service facility here that repairs and maintains aircraft, specifically Aermacchi S211, SF211, SF260 M and SF260 TP units, was inaugurated yesterday.

The facility is owned by Aerotech Phils., the exclusive representative of Aermacchi in the country.

Andrea Adani, chair and president of Aerotech, said in a statement that the inauguration coincided with the formal acceptance of the Philippine Airforce of the first two of its S211 jet trainers that were repaired in the Aerotech facility. Another highlight was the inauguration of its SF260 aircraft spare parts inventory, the largest in the world outside Aermacchi, the aircraft manufacturer. More than 3,000 line items in various quantities are available to all its customers worldwide.

Adani envisions that, with the cooperation of the government, Aerotech will also be able to offer its services to other air forces and other aviation companies in the region in the future. This will enable the company to tap more highly skilled Filipino technicians and achieve better economics and competitiveness.

Opportunities in new laws

TAX practitioners contribute to early economic recovery by alerting and assisting their clients in seizing fresh business opportunities arising from changes in the tax landscape, according to Victor Mamalateo, new president of the Tax Management Association of the Philippines (TMAP).

The new landscape, Mamalateo said, offered new business activities since new laws such as the E-Commerce Law, Revised Securities Acts and the Local Governments Code took effect.

Mamalateo, tax partner of accounting firm Punongbayan & Araullo that represents the international professional services firm Ernst & Young in the Philippines, said knowledge of various investment incentive laws and tax compliance requirements were also competitive marketing edges for their clients.

Laws and revenue regulations, the interplay of dynamic forces in the foreign exchange market, the issue of transfer-pricing, and other tax-related issues have impact on the revenues and costs of clients, he said.

Mamalateo, a former assistant BIR commissioner, said that TMAP itself would serve its members by continuing close consultations with government agencies.

Such close links, he said, will enable clients of tax practitioners to help government succeed in raising revenues for economic recovery.

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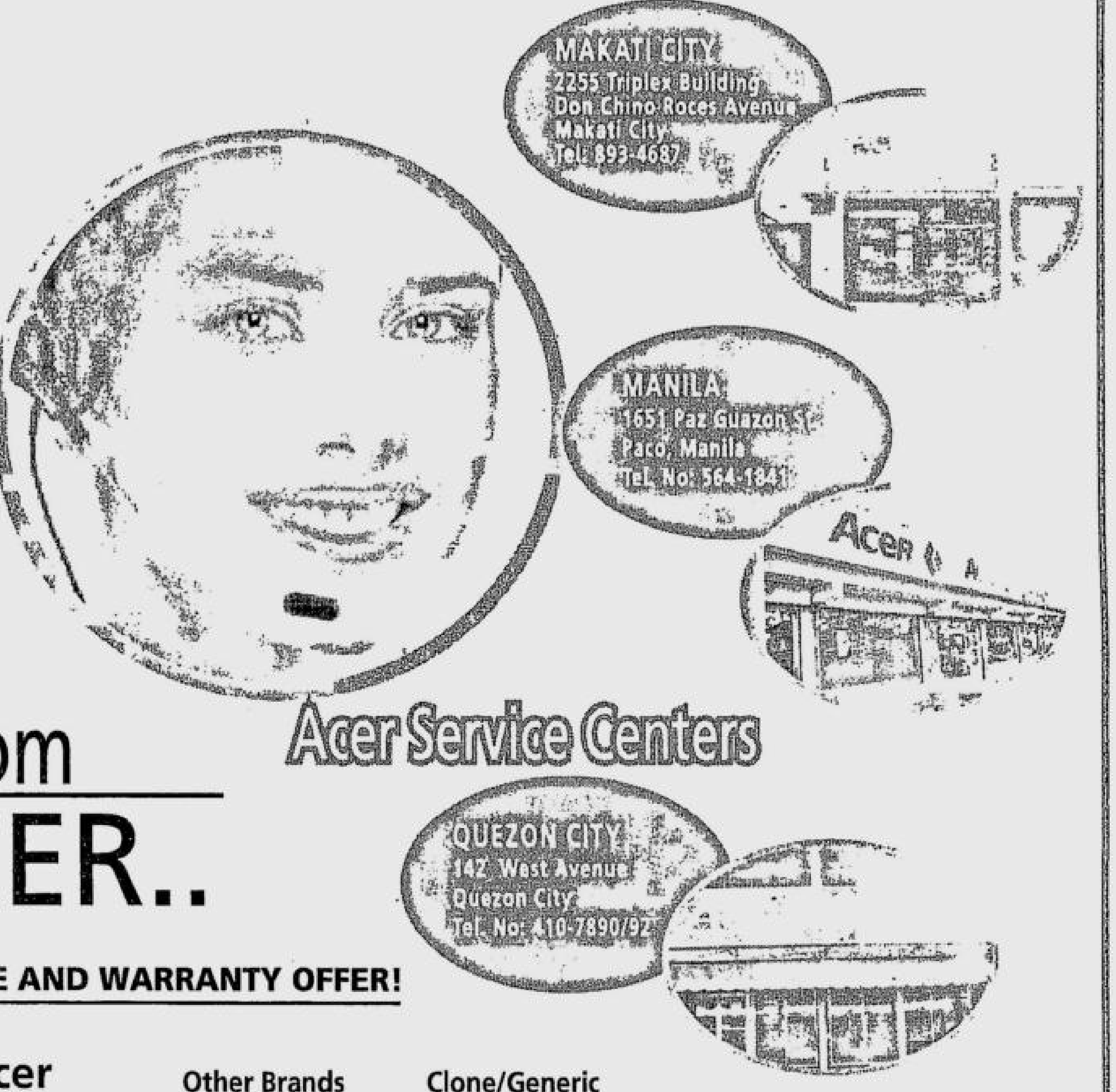

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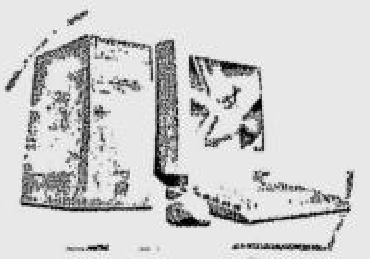
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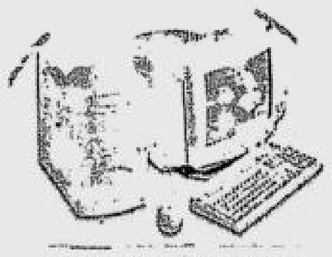
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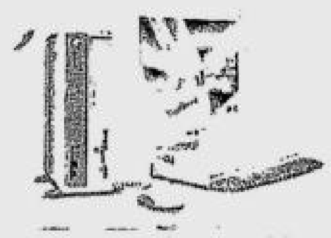
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PROFITS SHRIVEL

US economy limped along in first quarter

WASHINGTON—US corporate profits shriveled as the economy barely limped ahead in the first quarter, the government reported Friday, but a brightening mood among consumers implied that a recession might be averted.

Signs of a possible recovery ahead for the beleaguered industrial sector also appeared in a report on Chicago-area manufacturing.

The Commerce Department revised down its estimate of growth in gross domestic product in the first quarter to an anemic annual rate of 1.2 percent from 1.3 percent.

That was not much ahead of last year's fourth-quarter 1-percent rate of advance and highlighted the economy's shaky state as spring began. GDP measures total national economic output within US borders.

Companies' profits after paying taxes shrank at a 6.2-percent rate, or by $39 billion a year, in the first quarter, twice the pace a month ago. It was the steepest quarterly decline in profits in three years and followed a 4.3-percent decline in the fourth quarter of 2000.

Falling corporate profits have been one reason the Federal Reserve has cut US interest rates six times this year.

The GDP report, however, contained some optimistic signs about consumer spending, which fueled two-thirds of national economic activity. More of that appeared later in a private sector survey of consumer sentiment.

Commerce said the personal consumption expenditure component of GDP gained at a relatively healthy 3.4-percent annual rate in the first quarter instead of 2.9 percent as earlier estimated. That was up from a 2.8-percent growth in the fourth quarter and showed shoppers were still in the stores.

Later, sources said the University of Michigan's highly regarded consumer sentiment index gained for a second straight month in June, rising to 92.6 from 92 in May. The survey is released only to paying customers.

"This is the type of reading we would expect to see as the economy turns into a recovery," said Drew Matus, an economist at Lehman Brothers in New York. The findings suggest that, as government tax rebates begin to flow in July and marginal tax rates fall, consumers may spend the money and so keep the economy churning out goods and services.

Certainly that thought was running through the minds of some members of the beleaguered US manufacturing sector, which already was considered to be in recession.

The Chicago purchasing managers index for June was a stronger-than-expected 44.4, topping forecasts for a reading of 39.3 and well ahead of 38.7 in May. "This rise could indicate the worst is over," the Midwest-based National Association of Purchasing Management-Chicago said.

The sunnier economic outlook weighed heavy on debt markets, but US stocks finished mixed, with the blue chip Dow Jones industrial average softening by 0.6 percent and the Nasdaq climbing by about 1.7 percent.

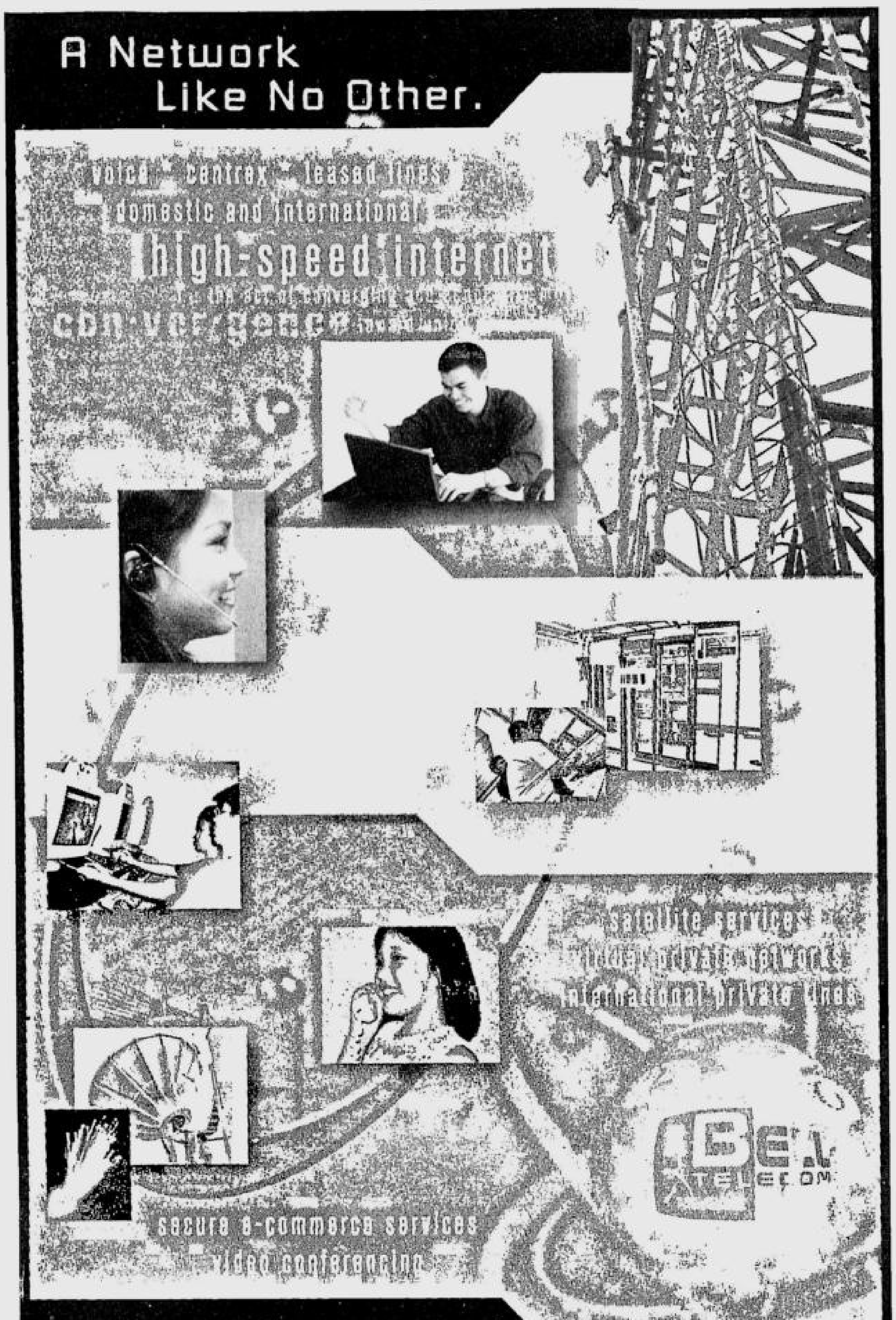
Some analysts think the economy may have contracted, or come close to it, during the April-June quarter that ends on Saturday. The government will not release its estimate of second-quarter GDP for another month, but private sector analysts speculate a sharp scaling back in business investment may have halted the US economic expansion during the period.

White House economic adviser Lawrence Lindsey on Friday offered a group of reporters what he called a very rough and unofficial estimate of US second quarter GDP growth of 0.6 percent.

But analysts were hopeful the second quarter would be the low point for the economy.

"The market knew the economy was weak and this confirms it," said Cary Leahy, an economist with Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. in New York. "It thinks the second quarter will be the weakest quarter with low growth. But after six months of easing, the market is buying the Fed's forecast that things will be better six months from now."

Reuters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Middle-class actors scraping out a living in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES—So ya wanna be an actor? Easy hours, lotsa money, a home with a pool in the Hollywood Hills, "doing lunch" with Steven Spielberg and millions of adoring fans around the world—right?

The reality is less glamorous for the average actors who work day in, day out at the trade, trying to balance mortgages, medical bills and raise children.

For every Julia Roberts, Tom Hanks and Russell Crowe, there are tens of thousands of others acting part-time, bussing restaurant tables, working at chain clothing stores and waiting for that big break.

In between, there is a thin slice of middle-class actors earning between $30,000 to $70,000 annually, according to the 130,000-member Screen Actors Guild.

And as negotiations continue to replace the three-year contract expiring at midnight Saturday, the guild and the smaller American Federation of Television and Radio Artists are trying to focus on their lesser known members.

"I've always supported myself being an actress, and making an okay living," said Fabiana Udenio, a former Miss Teen Italy and the foxy "Allota Fagina" in Mike Myers' spy spoof "Austin Powers."

"But there are times when you don't work for five or six months, and it's very important to get those residuals," said Udenio ("The Wedding Planner," "Austin Powers" and television's "NYPD Blue").

"Residuals" are the payments actors get when their work appears on cable TV reruns, videos and foreign television, and can account for 30 to 60 percent of an actor's annual income.

"A middle-class actor, to make a living, is going to work two or three guest shots a year (at $4,000 each—minus the agent's cut) if he's lucky, and maybe do a movie, and spend a lot of time out there auditioning," she said. "And it's very competitive."

With the Arnold Schwarzeneggers of the world getting record paydays, Udenio and her colleagues are the first to feel the pinch when studios try to control costs.

And when producers go to Canada and other countries, actors typically earn a flat fee instead of residuals since the Hollywood unions have no jurisdiction there.

Matt Kimbrough, a 25-year veteran who had a quick scene as the bartender in "Erin Brockovich," has seen the trend.

"People like myself used to get major guest star contracts," said Kimbrough, who was also Annette Bening's gun instructor in "American Beauty." "Now everyone wants to pay scale plus 10"—minimum union rates and 10 percent agents.

Minimums for speaking roles are $617 per day and $2,142 a week. About half of SAG members are unemployed at any given time.

Kimbrough, 49, earns between $25,000 and $70,000 per year in movies, television, commercials and stage. His most recent role was as a Hollywood producer in "Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles."

"I own a townhouse with my wife," he says. "We live a life where we can afford to do what we want. I'm also trying to save for my retirement."

AFP

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World needs more integration–IMF

WASHINGTON—The world needs more integration so as to make globalization a success for every country, according to an International Monetary Fund official.

In prepared remarks released by the Washington-based lender for delivery at a conference in Spain, IMF deputy managing director Eduardo Aninat said industrial countries should be more inclusive of poorer nations so that globalization could be a success.

"There is a need to reduce the contrast between our universe of remarkable possibilities and the stubborn prevalence of relentless deprivation," Aninat said, quoting economist Amartya Sen.

"The world needs more interaction, not less," he added.

This interaction must begin with a change in the somewhat protectionist conduct of some of the world's richest economies, Aninat said.

"Industrial countries should practice what they preach and open up their economies, especially in areas where developing countries have a clear and demonstrated comparative advantage: agriculture, processed foods, textile and clothes and light manufactures," he said.

Trade barriers in rich countries, which slam the door of international trade in the face of developing nations, must be halved, a step that could potentially create annual gains of $400 billion in the global economy, according to Aninat.

"Industrial countries should also deliver on their long-promised increase in official development aid to the targeted level of 0.7 percent of (Gross Domestic Product)," he said.

Aninat also encouraged rich economies to uphold their promises for debt relief to some of the world's most impoverished countries and welcomed the decision by a number of G7 countries to completely forgive bilateral debts.

Aninat said the IMF also had a crucial role to play in this "team effort to spread prosperity."

He outlined a number of initiatives supportive of the recent pledge by the international lender to develop better crisis prevention mechanisms, designed to foresee and better contain financial meltdowns such as the Asian crisis of 1997.

First, Aninat said, the fund would conduct more "health checks" on world economies and provide technical assistance where needed in order to overcome weaknesses. The IMF has already gauged the health of 20 economies, and 30 more are currently being assessed.

Aninat reminded his audience that the risk of volatile capital markets sending ripples from one country to another in the global economy still very much existed.

Therefore, he expressed hope that the IMF's Contingent Credit Line, a loan designed to help countries with strong economic policies avoid falling victim to financial contagion, might help contain the reach of such crises.

Mexico is poised to be the first country to sign up for the new loan by the end of the year.

Aninat also said the fund was reducing the number of conditions it attached to loans and focusing their terms only on conditions that were essential to achieve economic objectives.*Reuters*

China, Japan to try to end row

BEIJING—China and Japan would hold negotiations on July 3 and 4 to try to end their ongoing trade dispute, the official media said Saturday.

The talks would be held at the level of ministry department directors, the Xinhua news agency said, citing unnamed sources from the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation.

The two sides will discuss the emergency tariffs that Japan slapped on April 22 on Chinese spring onions, fresh mushrooms and tatami rushes and the retaliatory measures Beijing took on June 22 against 60 Japanese products, including automobiles, mobile telephones and air conditioners.

Following Beijing's action, Tokyo requested talks to break the deadlock.

Each side had accused the other of flouting World Trade Organization rules.

Japan's major automakers had said they would stop exporting cars to China from Monday after Beijing's imposition of 100 percent tariffs.

Japanese Trade Minister Takeo Hiranuma said if the Chinese measures continued for a year, the damage to Japan's exports would amount to 67 billion yen ($540 million).

While announcing its action against the Chinese products, Japan argued that they were only temporary measures under a "safeguard" mechanism provided by the WTO.

China's dispute with Japan comes at a time when Beijing is seen to be in the last lap of negotiations to gain formal accession to the world trade body.

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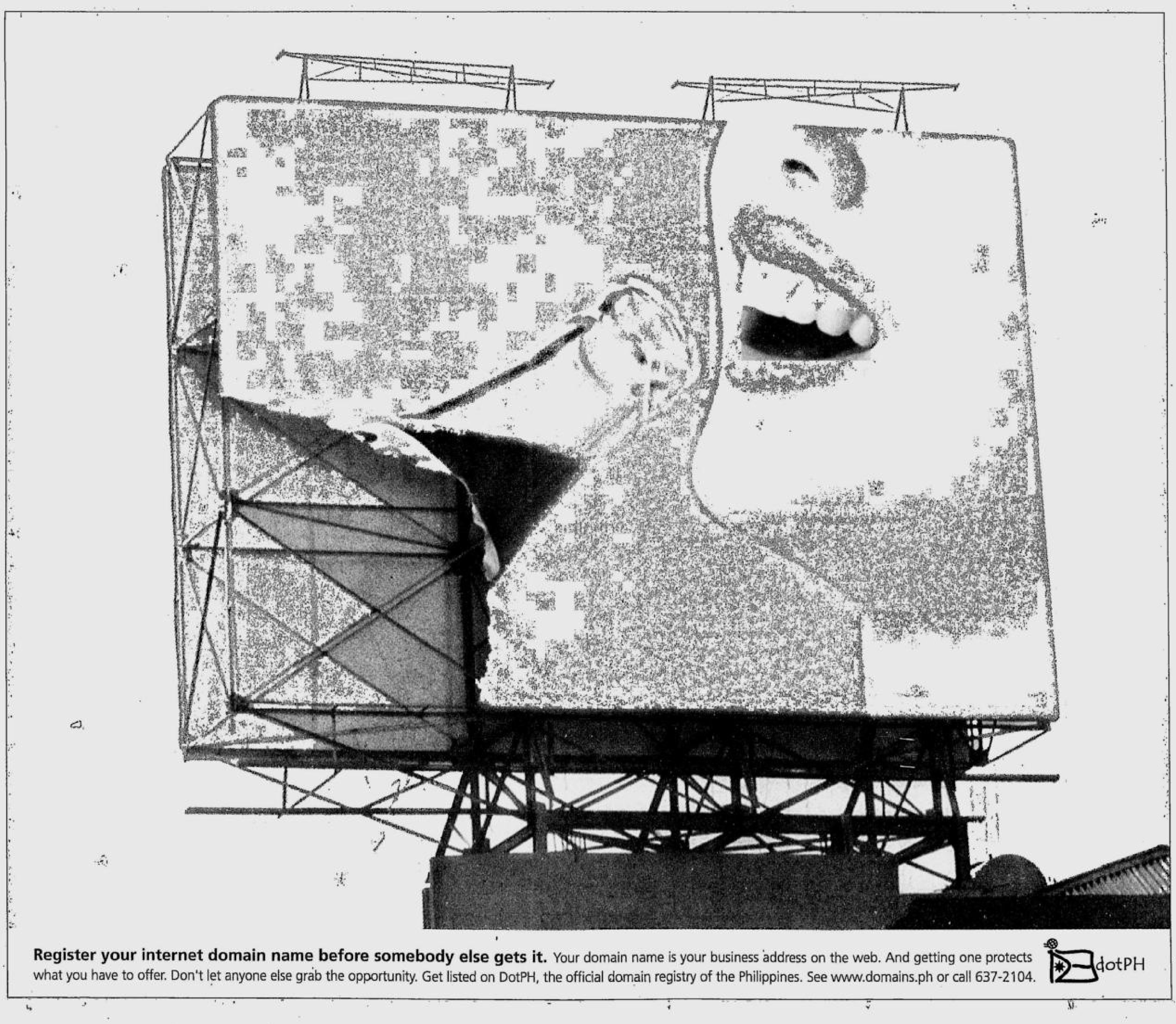
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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that the estate of the late ISAMI KAMADA had been extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc.#435, Page #87, Book 1, Series of 2001 by Notary Public Atty. Benedicta F. Barrientos.
(PDI-July 2, 9 & 16

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RONNIE MANALO. has been Extrajudicially settled with his heirs as per Doc. No. 438; Page No. 89; Book No. 69; and Series of 2001 before Atty. Allan B. Cos, Notary Public of Paranaque City.
(PDI-June 25, July 2 &

PERSONAL

THANK YOU MAMA MARY FOR ANSWERING MY PRAYER-LIANA

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

"There they go..."

Q. How did horse racing begin?

A. Horse racing probably began soon after horses were first domesticated. The earliest horse races date back to about 1500 B.C., when chariot races were held in Egypt, Babylonia, and Syria. The legendary Greek epic poet Homer, in one of his works, described a Greek chariot race that took place about eight centuries before the birth of Christ. The Olympic Games in ancient Greece first featured chariot races in 680 B.C. Races between horses with riders were added to the Games in 648 B.C. Horse racing later spread to Asia Minor, France, Germany, India, and Italy. The Romans who occupied Britain from A.D 40's to the early 400s, introduced horse racing there. Horse racing caught on in England and most of the race horses were owned by the English monarchs and the nobility, which is why horse racing is sometimes called the sport of kings. Modern horse racing, as we know it, developed in England, and it was in the late 17th century that the breeding of thoroughbred horses for sport began.

For the Record. All modern thoroughbred horses trace their ancestry to three Arab stallions -- the Godolphin Arabian, the Darley Arabian, and the Byerly Turk -- brought into England between 1689 and 1728.

Past Forward. This day in 1976: North and South Vietnam were reunified in the aftermath of the fall of Saigon and the tragedy of the Vietnam War. The first National Assembly of both parts of the country met and proclaimed the birth of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The United States, unpopular for its part in the war, withdrew in 1973 in the most humiliating political defeat it has ever suffered.

WORD WATCH

PDI—July 2, 2001

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I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me."
John 14:6

"For to me, to live is Christ
and to die is gain."
Philippians 1:21

TIMOTHY LALLAVE

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on June 29, 2001 at the age of 41.

His loving parents **Jaime** and **Anglo**; wife **Annie**; children **Terence, Trixie** and **Abigail**; brother, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Chapel C-1, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Thursday, July 5, 2001 at La Funeraria Paz Crematorium at 8:00 A.M.

'Our Dearly Beloved

LIWAYWAY VELEÑA GARIN

of Atimonan and Lucban, Quezon

Peacefully joined her Creator
on June 17, 2001 at the age of 68.

We, her bereaved husband **JUDGE FELICISIMO S. GARIN**; children **DR. EMMANUEL V. GARIN** and **FERNANDO RAMON GARIN**; daughter-in-law **MARIA ANGELES M. GARIN**; brothers and sisters sincerely convey our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered prayers and Masses, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us. May her soul rest in peace.

Interment was held on June 23, 2001 at Risen Christ Memorial Cemetery in Atimonan, Quezon.

COL. JESUS PEÑA AMOR

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 30, 2001
at the age of 87.

His loving wife **Margarita Aquino Amor**; children **Rodolfo & Ma. Luz, Flor** (†), **Rosalinda & Dipankar, Lilia & Antonio & Remedios**; grandchildren **Marjess & Jamee, Bernadette, Kristine, Audrey, Kristopher & Joyce** & great grandson **Carlo** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel in Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 5, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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LILIAN LAING DE LEON

Joined her Creator on June 29, 2001
at the age of 79.

Her bereaved children **MILWYDA, HILARY** and **SHERETON**; daughters-in-law **ANALI** and **ELOISA**; auntie **CARMEN**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Resurrection II, Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on July 4, 2001, 9:00 AM at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Fe Macapagal Garife vda de Baylon

Peacefully joined the Creator on June 29, 2001 at the age of 72.

Her beloved children **Bon - Yayee, Bobby, Jovie, Jun - Tess, Randall - Mars**; siblings **Linda, Letty, Cely** and **Dan**; grandchildren, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends thank God for sharing her to them.

Her remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 2-B) #264 Gregorio Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 4, 2001 at The Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City at 2:00 PM.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones the following establishments can help you.

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People, Events & Products

AIR PHILIPPINES BUTUAN OFFICE

Caraga province vice governor Robert Tejano and Air Philippines chair Domingo Chua cut the ceremonial ribbon, marking the inauguration of Air Philippines Butuan City ticketing office at the Butuan City airport in Agusan del Norte. The event highlights the airlines' recent Manila-Butuan via Cebu maiden flight. Witnessing the affair are Capt. Rogelio Narciso, president and CEO; Mila Limgenco, senior vice president for marketing; Jimmy Chua, vice president for logistics and purchasing; Patty Chiong, vice president for administration; Shaman Air Inc. station manager Darlene Uy Limbo and Fr. Randy Odchigue, officiating priest.

PEOPLE AT WORK CELEBRATES 1

People at Work, the newest business section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, celebrated its first anniversary by conducting a series of free seminars at the Asian Institute of Management May 29-30. The celebration was concluded June 1 with an awarding ceremony for the most inspiring career tale of the year at the third floor lobby of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Building in Makati City. People at Work's first anniversary celebration was sponsored by Philam Life, AIM and Seattle's Best Coffee. Shown from left are Marnie Angeles, Philamlife sales promo and public relations manager; Moje Ramos-Aquino, People at Work columnist; Regina Reyes, People at Work editor and Cecille Fontanilla, Philamlife sales promo and public relations officer.

BITS & Clips

Kamai art exhibit for a cause

THE KAPISANAN ng mga Mabungang Artistikong Isipan (Kamai) is having its first major exhibit for 2001 with "Diversity, Varied Expressions from the Masters". Kamai is composed of artists who have established a name for themselves in the local art circuit. The showcase runs June 21 to July 8 at the Philamlife Art Center at UN Avenue, Manila. Proceeds from the sale of their painting will go to the Well-Wishers Foundation, which in turn will donate the money to the Philippine Children's Medical Center. Kamai and the foundation have been helping the PCMC expand its therapy center for terminally ill children. Kamai was organized in November 2000 as an avenue for the members to share their techniques with other art aficionados and develop new talents. It is based in Francisville, Antipolo City.

3-in-1 retailing event at World Trade Center

SHOP ASIA 2001, comprising three major events to capture the total concept of lifestyle marketing and shopping experience, will be held July 5-8 at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Metro Manila. These three events are "Supermarket Show" – the showcase on supermarket products, equipment and technologies; "Restau-Rama 2001" – the exhibit on food service products, equipment, technology and catering trends; and "Future Shops 2001" – multimedia design and creative competition on tomorrow's shops. Interested parties may visit Expovision Trade Services Inc. at S-202-A, Veca Building, Pasong Tamo corner Estrella Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City, or call 895-2392, 895-5735, fax 890-7531, or e-mail xpotrade@mkt.weblinq.com.

Search on for Tofil 2001

THE ANNUAL search for The Outstanding Filipino (Tofil) is now ongoing. The Tofil award is given to outstanding Filipino men and women, at least 41 years old, whose exemplary achievements have made significant contributions to the upliftment of their profession and to national development. Since its inception in 1988, its sponsors, The Insular Life Assurance Company Ltd. and the Philippine Jaycee Senate (PJS) have honored 66 outstanding Filipinos in various fields of expertise with a Tofil award. Any individual, public or private entity or organization may nominate a candidate in any of, but not limited to, the following fields of specialization or branches thereof: agriculture, arts/culture, business/industry, community/humanitarian services, religious work, environmental conservation, education, finance, government/public service, justice/law, labor, medicine, literature, media, military/police work, science and technology, sports and peace advocacy. Nominations are now accepted at all PJS chapter offices and at Insular Life field offices nationwide. Nomination covers accomplishments up to June 30. Deadline for submission of nomination forms and all bid materials is on Aug. 31. For inquiries, call PJS Secretariat at 374-4390 or Insular Life head office at 771-1818 extensions 1121, 1122 or 1123.

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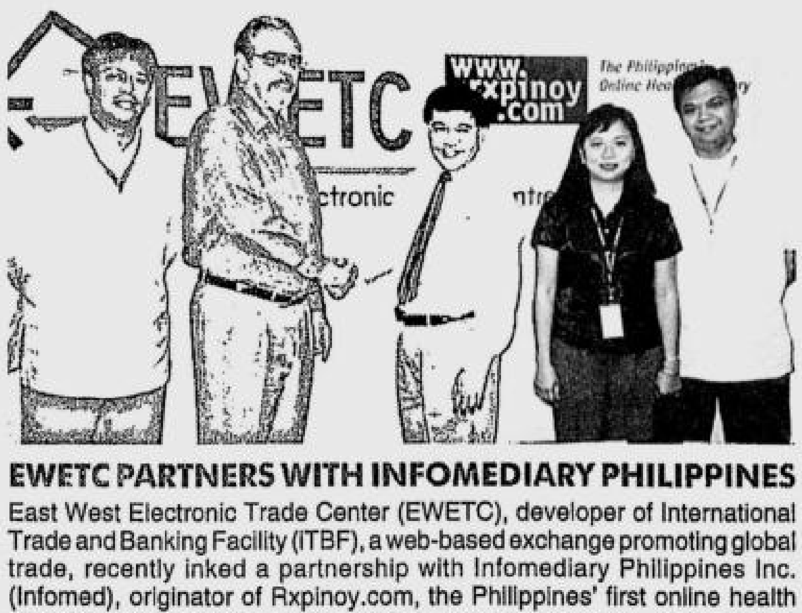
John Balass

HARDIFLEX PROMO WINNER

Recently held at the James Hardie Cabuyao plant was the awarding of the first set of raffle winners for "Winning is Easy as 1-2-3!" raffle promo. Shown is first grand prize winner Sotero Naeg (extreme left) and son being awarded by James Hardie president John Balass. The promo started March 1 and concluded June 30. Winners were drawn every month. Prizes include three tricycles, two entertainment showcases and the grand prize--a trip for two to the United States plus $1,000 pocket money every draw. Next raffle draw date was on June 15. The final draw is on July 13.



EWETC PARTNERS WITH INFOMEDIARY PHILIPPINES

East West Electronic Trade Center (EWETC), developer of International Trade and Banking Facility (ITBF), a web-based exchange promoting global trade, recently inked a partnership with Infomediary Philippines Inc. (Infomed), originator of Rxpinoy.com, the Philippines' first online health directory of doctors and dentists across the country. Using ITBF, Rxpinoy.com can now efficiently connect the various sectors in the healthcare industry and address the needs of medical and dental practitioners in the procurement area. Shown are (from left) EWETC sales account manager Bernie Peralta, EWETC president and CEO Thomas J. Price, Infomed president and CEO Edy B. Uy, Infomed marketing director Roseanne L. Tan-Andal, and Informed chief information officer Miguel C. Migallos.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 911-6433, 911-6001 loc. 6592

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all local manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE AND ONE-FORTH (1¼) TON CARGO TRUCKS** with an approved budget of **Three Hundred Five Million One Hundred Eighty Four Thousand Pesos (P305,184,000.090)** under the **AFP Modernization Program.**

Only bids from local suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers of said 1¼ Ton Cargo Trucks shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **July 4, 2001** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **July 17, 2001** at **10:00 AM** (local time) at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and bid envelopes is on **August 8, 2001** at **9:00 AM** (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at **1:00 PM** at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **LTGEN ROY A CIMATU AFP**
The Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – July 2 & 3, 2001)

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MS. LILIAN REYES
155G I. Mendoza Street, San Roque, Marikina City
Cellphone No. 0919-212-3230

Taguig BCO
RISE GLOBAL CITY TAGUIG
MS. REGINA C. VELASCO
#355 B8 GHQ Zone 1-C Signal, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 838-7883, Cellphone No. 0919-433-9797

Laguna Contact Address:
MS. LILIBETH GABRIEL
Biñan Metropolitan Plaza
Commercial and Community Market
Brgy. Tubigan, Biñan, Laguna
Tel No. (049) 839-1136
Cellphone No. 0919-819-5899

Commonwealth BCO
RISE COMMONWEALTH GROUP
MS. OFELIA J. BALLESTA
628 Grapes Street, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 932-2490, 428-0840

Novaliches BCO
RISE E-NOVALICHES
MS. EMMA C. DANIEL
#18 Sta. Rosa Street, Villa Magdalena 2, Camarin Road
Novaliches, Caloocan City
Tel. No. 963-0346 Cellphone No. 0919-309-2387

Pandacan BCO
RISE CHIT-PANDACAN
MS. NECITA D. SALIVIO
1944 A. Sampaguita Street, Pandacan, Manila
Tel No. 561-6605

Luzon BCO
RISE EXCEL-PANGASINAN
MR. MANUEL G. VALDEZ
Nancayasan, Urdaneta City
Tel. No. (075) 568-5116, Cellphone No. 0917-447-3280

RISE DAGUPAN GROUP
MS. EMILY SORIANO - Tel. No. (075) 522-5376
MS. IMELDA SARMIENTO - Tel. No. (075) 515-6755
#43 Perez Boulevard, Dagupan City
Cellphone Nos. 0917-365-4775, 0919-664-9784

Western Visayas/Panay Island BCO
RISE ILOILO
MR. WILLIAM A. FEROLINO
2nd Floor, AMIGO PLAZA, Iznart Street, Iloilo City
Telefax No. (033) 337-9252, Cellphone No. 0917-514-1369

Applicants for Business Center & Sub-Center Operations (BCO/SCO) in other cities/areas may contact RISE PHILS. CO. LTD. Tel. No. 687-4311; CP No. 0919-592-4258, 0919-212-3230; E-mail: *risephilippines@hotmail.com*

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Teofilo Callangan

Notice is hereby given to the public most especially to distributors dealers and customers of PHILIPPINE ORCHARD CORPORATION (PHILOR) that Mr. Teofilo Callangan, of Blk. 14, Lot 14, Helsinki St. Villa Olympia Subd., San Pedro, Laguna, whose picture appears above is no longer connected with the said company in whatever capacity effective May 1, 2001.

Any transaction made or entered into by Mr. Callangan after the above stated date is not valid and shall not be honored by the Company. Any products sold by Mr. Callangan bearing the PHILOR logo or mark do not bear the quality seal of PHILOR, and as such are deemed substandard, fake and do not have a valid FPA license.

Any information as to any other dealings by Mr. Callangan, please call (02) 8106703, please look for Lourdes or Noel.

(PDI--July 2, 2001)

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TOM
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Happy Birthday!
No matter what—
I will forever remain your very own true friend—
Take Care...Always

PS This is not a gift

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") has approved the application of Securities 2000, Inc. ("Sec2000") to voluntarily suspend its trading operations effective July 2, 2001.

Per PSE Regulations, Sec 2000 has endorsed and forwarded full custody of all its accounts to its designated successor broker KGI Securities (Phils.), Inc. ("KGI"). As such, KGI would handle the distribution / transfer of shares in accordance with the beneficial owners' instructions.

Thus, effective on July 2, 2001, all inquiries and concerns regarding clients' accounts should be coursed through KGI. However, Sec2000 may still be contacted for any other concerns.

KGI SECURITIES (PHILS.), INC.
31st Floor West Tower, PSE Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center
Pasig City

Tel. Number : 637-0844
Fax Number : 631-7064
Email Address : kgisecurities@kgi-ph.com
Contact Person: Ms. Zoila Perez

SECURITIES 2000, INC.
Unit 2104B West Tower, PSE Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center
Pasig City

Tel. Number : 638-0700
Fax Number : 637-9404
Email Address: office@sec2000.com.ph
Contact Person: Mr. Arnold Agbada/
Mr. Richmond Chua

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that the following official receipts of Smart Communications, Inc. were declared lost

Booklet Number	Series Number	Booklet Number	Series Number
2501	375001 - 375050	2551	377501 - 377550
2502	375051 - 375100	2552	377551 - 377600
2503	375101 - 375150	2553	377601 - 377650
2504	375151 - 375200	2554	377651 - 377700
2505	375201 - 375250	2555	377701 - 377750
2506	375251 - 375300	2556	377751 - 377800
2507	375301 - 375350	2557	377801 - 377850
2508	375351 - 375400	2558	377851 - 377900
2509	375401 - 375450	2559	377901 - 377950
2510	375451 - 375500	2560	377951 - 378000
2511	375501 - 375550	2561	378001 - 378050
2512	375551 - 375600	2562	378051 - 378100
2513	375601 - 375650	2563	378101 - 378150
2514	375651 - 375700	2564	378151 - 378200
2515	375701 - 375750	2565	378201 - 378250
2516	375751 - 375800	2566	378251 - 378300
2517	375801 - 375850	2567	378301 - 378350
2518	375851 - 375900	2568	378351 - 378400
2519	375901 - 375950	2569	378401 - 378450
2520	375951 - 376000	2570	378451 - 378500
2521	376001 - 376050	2571	378501 - 378550
2522	376051 - 376100	2572	378551 - 378600
2523	376101 - 376150	2573	378601 - 378650
2524	376151 - 376200	2574	378651 - 378700
2525	376201 - 376250	2575	378701 - 378750
2526	376251 - 376300	2576	378751 - 378800
2527	376301 - 376350	2577	378801 - 378850
2528	376351 - 376400	2578	378851 - 378900
2529	376401 - 376450	2579	378901 - 378950
2530	376451 - 376500	2580	378951 - 379000
2531	376501 - 376550	2581	379001 - 379050
2532	376551 - 376600	2582	379051 - 379100
2533	376601 - 376650	2583	379101 - 379150
2534	376651 - 376700	2584	379151 - 379200
2535	376701 - 376750	2585	379201 - 379250
2536	376751 - 376800	2586	379251 - 379300
2537	376801 - 376850	2587	379301 - 379350
2538	376851 - 376900	2588	379351 - 379400
2539	376901 - 376950	2589	379401 - 379450
2540	376951 - 377000	2590	379451 - 379500
2541	377001 - 377050	2591	379501 - 379550
2542	377051 - 377100	2592	379551 - 379600
2543	377101 - 377150	2593	379601 - 379650
2544	377151 - 377200	2594	379651 - 379700
2545	377201 - 377250	2595	379701 - 379750
2546	377251 - 377300	2596	379751 - 379800
2547	377301 - 377350	2597	379801 - 379850
2548	377351 - 377400	2598	379851 - 379900
2549	377401 - 377450	2599	379901 - 379950
2550	377451 - 377500	2600	379951 - 380000

Any transaction covered by the above numbered receipts will not be honored by the company.

SMART COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
Smart Tower
6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 811-0211

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID
Re: SECURITY AND JANITORIAL SERVICES

All interested SECURITY and JANITORIAL AGENCIES, preferably Metro Manila based, are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the provision of Security and Janitorial Services requirements of the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA). THIS INVITATION SERVES AS AN EXTENSION OF THE INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID, PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED FOR SECURITY SERVICES IN OCTOBER 2000.

The list of pre-qualification requirements may be obtained from the DOT-PTA Secretariat Room 309, DOT Building, T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila from **09 July 2001** until **20 July 2001**. Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents is on 27 July 2001. Applicants shall be notified of the results of their prequalifications on or before **06 August 2001**.

Bid documents shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders at Room 309, DOT Building from **06 August 2001** until **20 August 2001**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE HUNDRED PESOS (P300.00).

A pre-bid conference will be held on **28 August 2001** (Tuesday) for Security Services at 2:00 p.m. and on **29 August 2001** (Wednesday) for Janitorial Services at the same time, at the Internal Services (IS) Conference Room (Rm. 307), DOT Building, T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila. Submission and opening of sealed bids in this regard shall be on **04 September 2001** (Tuesday) for Security Services and on **05 September 2001** (Wednesday) for Janitorial Services, at the same time and venue.

The DOT and PTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and/or any part thereof, waive any defect contained therein and accept a bid most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) ASEC. MA. THERESA I. MARTINEZ
Chairperson
Joint DOT-PTA PBAC

(PDI--July 2, 3 & 4, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

INVITATION TO BID

The HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD (HLURB) invites GIS Application Software Developers to a public bidding for the AUTOMATED LAND USE MONITORING SYSTEM (ALUMS) project.

Application forms for Prequalification/Eligibility and Request for Proposals (RFP) may be secured from the PBAC-ITR Secretariat at the GIS-ITG, Second Floor, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue, Quezon City with Telefax No 434-4168 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (PhP500.00).

The deadline of submission of July accomplished Pre-qualification/Eligibility Form shall be on July 20, 2001 at 10:00 AM. The Last Day of submission of proposals shall be on July 20, 2001 at 10:00 AM.

Request for clarification and other inquiries may be addressed to the above address in writing or in person before the deadline of submission of proposals.

HLURB reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any required formalities in the bids and to accept such bids, which are advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO L. DAGNALAN**
Commissioner and Chairman,
Awards & Contracts Review Committee

(PDI – July 2, 3 & 4, 2001)

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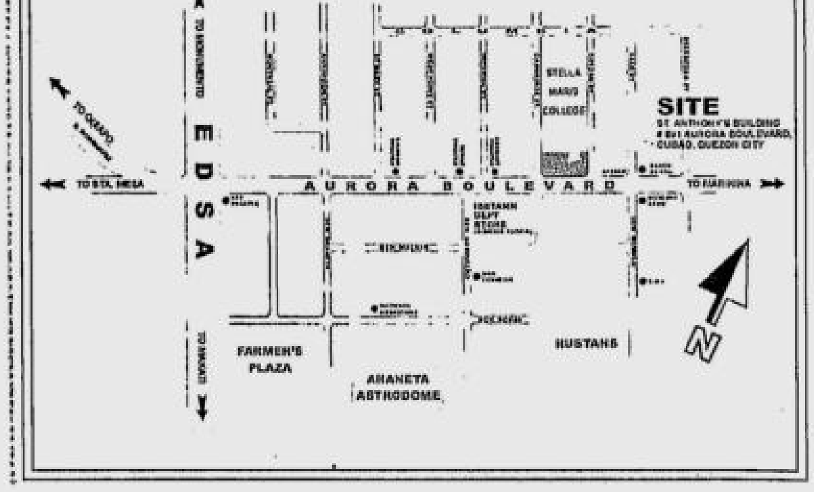

Republic of the Philippines
TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
Tarlac City
Tel. No. 982-0717 • Fax 045 982-0110

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Tarlac State University invites contractors with at least "Medium A" Building Category classification to pre-qualify and to bid for the **REHABILITATION OF THE OLD SHOP BUILDING FOR THE COLLEGE OF COMPUTER STUDIES PHASE II.**

All interested parties may secure pre-qualification documents upon presentation of Letter of Intent and original copies of Contractor's License and Certificate of Registration for authentication at the PBAC Secretariat TSU Administration Building, and take note of the following schedules.

Submission of Letter of Intent	June 29 - July 2, 2001
Submission of Pre-qual documents	July 6, 2001
Issuance of Notice of Pre-qualified Contractors	July 16, 2001
Issuance of Bid Documents	July 19-20, 2001
Site Inspection	July 19-20, 2001
Pre-bidding Conference	August 13, 2001
Bidding	August 20, 2001

The TSU-PBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) **CECILIA M. NERIDA**
PBAC Chair

Noted:
(Sgd.) **DOLORES G. MATIAS**
President

(PDI--June 29, 30 & July 2, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Criminal Case No. 01-192143, a warrant of arrest was issued against Henry Garcia Cua, suspect on the killing of Fil-Chinese businesswoman Josene Sy Bautista last August 25, 2000. Henry Cua's last known address was Unit 712, Le Mariche Subd., 222 E. Rodriguez Street, Quezon City. Any information of his whereabouts that will lead to the arrest of the suspect will properly be rewarded. Kindly contact Mr. Alex Ramos, cell # 0919-7126364, your nearest police station or any government authorities.

(PDI--July 2, 2001)

Microsoft ruling could prod gov't to settle

WASHINGTON—Antitrust experts said Thursday's US appeals court ruling on Microsoft Corp. could prod the government and company toward a settlement of the landmark antitrust case.

By clearing up disputed points of law and removing any immediate threat of a Microsoft breakup, the appeals court has laid a clearer path toward resolving the case out of court, according to antitrust lawyers and former government officials who spoke with Reuters on Friday.

"It's easier to settle the case now than it was two days ago," said Richard Parker, an antitrust litigator who was formerly chief of the Federal Trade Commission's competition bureau.

The seven-judge panel agreed with a lower court that Microsoft held a monopoly in personal computer operating systems with its Windows software and that some of its business practices amounted to illegal preservation of that monopoly.

But the appeals judges cleared the company of trying to monopolize the market for Internet browsers and said splitting the company in two was an inappropriate remedy.

Microsoft founder Bill Gates said Friday that the was "very open" to reaching a settlement and a US Justice Department official said Thursday the government was open to settlement if the remedy gave confidence that "illegal conduct will cease."

One sticking point to a settlement could be the 19 states that remain a party to the case and have been the most strident Microsoft critics.

The tough stance taken by the states was blamed for last year's failure of efforts to settle the case through a special mediator in Chicago.

From the government's perspective, Thursday's ruling means it is unlikely prosecutors will get the breakup order they won at trial. "The government no longer has the immediate right to the breakup," Parker said.

Although the government could propose another change in the software giant's structure, analysts said it was more likely the appeals court ruling would focus the Justice Department on so-called conduct remedies, which would restrict Microsoft business tactics that were deemed illegal.

Antitrust experts expect the Justice Department's new antitrust chief, Charles James, and the rest of the Republican regime at the department to be more amenable to a settlement. But it's unclear exactly how agreeable they will be.

"There is no way to predict," Parker said. "The man just got in, he's probably just hanging his picture on the wall."

Thursday's appeals court ruling also gave Microsoft some good reasons to settle the case, since it reaffirmed several key rulings against the company and raised questions about what new software features may be included in future versions of Windows.

In interviews on Friday morning television, Microsoft's Gates expressed willingness to reach a deal.

"Microsoft, as we have been throughout the case, is very open to the idea of settlement. We don't think extensive litigation and the resources that involves are really good for anyone. We will see if that's a possibility," Gates told ABC's "Good Morning America" program.

In an interview with NBC's "Today" show, he said the company would "do our best" to reach a deal with the Justice Department.

"If the government believes that a conduct remedy is enough, then the settlement route is the way to go," Parker said. "If they however, conclude that the only remedy is structural, then I think they've got to litigate."

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said the states were open to settlement talks but had not dropped the idea of a Microsoft breakup.

"The court of appeals didn't reject the possibility of a structural remedy. Neither have we," Blumenthal told Reuters.

Blumenthal said the states that were party to the Microsoft suit were planning to meet next week to discuss the future of the case. "Obviously one issue might well be whether to engage in settlement discussions," he said.

"The issue isn't so much whether settlement talks can occur, it really is how realistic both sides will be when they come to the table," Blumenthal said. "The important point is that any remedy has to fundamentally change the way Microsoft uses its monopoly power."

Steve Houck, a former assistant to New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, said he thought the states would now be willing to settle for conduct restrictions if they were strong enough.

"The language has to be broad," said Houck, who had a large role in the government's case. "The problem is preventing the company from doing the same kind of things in (its) new products."

Jeff Blattner, a former deputy at the Justice Department's antitrust division and one of the architects of the suit, said cases did not settle when parties had dramatically different views of the merits of the case.

"The opinion resolves any uncertainties there may have been about whether Microsoft's conduct was illegal," said Blattner. *Reuters*

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Matter of Record Only

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that the
Quality Management Systems
of

STANDARD INSURANCE CO., INC.

after its 6th Surveillance-Audit dated June 22, 2001
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Final hopes for GE, Honeywell deal fade

NEW YORK/BRUSSELS—Final glimmers of hope for General Electric Co.'s proposed purchase of Honeywell International Inc. faded Friday, as the two chief executives disagreed publicly over a last-ditch proposal to save the deal.

Honeywell chief executive Michael Bonsignore offered to slash $1.7 billion from the price tag to compensate GE for extra divestitures to satisfy European Union competition concerns. GE chief executive Jack Welch replied that the proposal "makes no sense" for shareholders.

Barring developments such as a new offer by GE, the European Commission—the European Union's executive arm—looked set to block the transaction this week.

A source close to the situation said GE had no plans to negotiate further with European regulators, apparently sounding the death knell for the deal. Shares of financially troubled Honeywell sank on the news.

"What the commission is seeking cuts the heart out of the strategic rationale of our deal," Welch said in his letter rejecting Honeywell's proposal. "The new deal you propose, in response to the commission, makes no sense for our share owners, for the same strategic reasons."

In his letter to Welch, Bonsignore offered to cut the stock exchange ratio on the transaction to 1.01 shares of GE for each Honeywell share from a previous ratio of 1.055 shares in what some analysts called a desperate measure to save the deal.

Based on GE's closing price on Friday, Honeywell's offer would cut the value of the deal to $39.9 billion from $41.6 billion.

Honeywell said its proposal would compensate GE for the divestitures it would need to make to win EU approval.

It asked GE to return to its original proposal to divest itself of assets that generated $2.2 billion in revenues in addition to its latest offer of selling a piece of its aircraft leasing arm, GE Capital Aviation Services, or Gecas.

"A more complete alternative is the only possible effective solution that will satisfy the Commission," Bonsignore said in the letter to Welch. *Reuters*

Computer Associates blasts Wyly in lawsuit

NEW YORK—Computer Associates International Inc. had alleged in a lawsuit that Texas tycoon Sam Wyly smeared its reputation in a bid to seize control of the world's No. 4 software supplier and violated a non-competition pact.

"(Wyly has) made numerous misleading statements, falsely disparaged Computer Associates, its management and its board," the company said in the lawsuit filed on Monday in the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

"(He has) misrepresented the performance of Computer Associates and failed to disclose Wyly's checkered business history," according to the suit, which Wyly first revealed on Friday. Islandia,. New York-based Computer Associates, later provided Reuters with a copy of the suit.

In addition to unspecified monetary damages, Computer Associates is asking the court to bar Wyly from participating in a proxy battle shaping up ahead of the company's Aug. 29 annual meeting, during which shareholders will elect a board.

Nine days ago, Wyly said he would ask shareholders to vote to replace the current slate of candidates for the Computer Associates board of directors with ones he selected. He was also seeking to become chair.

The CA lawsuit is just one of the recent blows to land in what is shaping up as one of the summer's nastiest takeover contests.

Wyly, a veteran software entrepreneur who founded two companies later sold to Computer Associates, called the Computer Associates' board both "sleepy" and "corrupt."

He charged in full-page newspaper ads that CA chair Charles Wang and chief executive Sanjay Kumar created a culture that allowed CA to mistreat employees and customers alike. He also accused management of letting the stock price languish.

Since the fight was announced, shares of Computer Associates have climbed to $36 from $33 a share, though still lower than a year-high level of $54.44.

CA officials have called Wyly's assertions "outrageous" and "self-serving."

Wyly would file a response to the lawsuit next week, his spokesperson said.

CA alleged in the suit that the Dallas-based Wyly has switched sides to suit his own interests.

Just 16 months ago, as chair of Sterling Software, Wyly convinced shareholders to sell the company to Computer Associates for $4 billion in stock. But now, he disparaged the reputation of Computer Associates' management and board, the suit said. *Reuters*

Unisys ES7000 delivers performance record

BLUE BELL, Pennsylvannia—Any performance margin justifying the high price of Unix and Risc-based servers compared with Windows-based servers has vanished, according to benchmark data announced by Unisys Corp.

Topping the best performance of the Sun E10000 64-bit Unix/Risc server running the Oracle 8.1.5 database, a Unisys e-@ction Enterprise Server ES7000 equipped with 32 Intel Pentium III Xeon 32-bit processors supported 20,000 concurrent SAP Standard Application Sales and Distribution users. The result was achieved in a performance test using the SAP SD Standard Application Benchmark, an industry-standard measure of server performance.

For users of mission-critical solutions such as mySAP.com, the benchmark results show that there is no longer any performance advantage to be gained by paying the premium charged by Unix/Risc server vendors. The high reliability and performance once available only from large mainframes and Unix systems is now within the reach of a broader community of users.

"The message emerging from this achievement is: 'No Unix taxation without performance justification,'" said Mark Feverston, vice president, Unisys Server Programs. "With the Unisys ES7000 outperforming even a 64x64-bit Unix server, enterprises now stand to benefit from a new brand of large-scale server economics."

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Web Site: http://www.sharpcopier.com.ph

CAMANAVA Branch: 215 McArthur Hi-way, Valenzuela City
Tels. 291-7328; 291-7334; 291-7343; Fax: 291-7335

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Sharp Minds, Sharp Products.

ROTO-ROOTER IN THE PHILIPPINES

Roto-Rooter, America's no. 1 plumbing and draincare service company, recently held a marketing and franchising exhibit last Tuesday, June 26, at the Skytop of the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. A worldwide company that cares for the environment and focuses on fast, efficient and guaranteed service, Roto-Rooter presented its products and services through live demonstrations and a multimedia exhibit to members of the Macea community in Makati. Roto-Rooter also invited potential franchise members to participate in sharing in its business success and bringing its unique products and services across the nation. Roto-Rooter has been providing fast, guaranteed and environmentally-safe services to the residential, commercial and industrial communities in the Philippines for three years. Interested parties may contact its 24-hour help and information desk at 536-1895 to 97. Chief Technical Consultant Colin Richards and Roto-Rooter (Asia) Consultant Robert Swift, along with Victor Mark Puyat, president of Roto-Rooter Philippines and Mike Higgins, director of Franchise Development for Roto-Rooter USA.

NHA to build up capability for more low-cost housing

THE National Housing Authority (NHA) is readying itself to assume a lead role in the pro-poor programs of the Arroyo administration by raising more funds for low-cost housing through the disposition of many of its idle but prime land holdings, NHA general manager Edgardo Pamintuan said.

Pamintuan said he has directed an inventory of all properties being held by the agency to determine which could be developed for socialized housing.

"Since the days of the People's Homesite Housing Corporation (PHHC) in the late 1940s, the NHA inherited many properties which, through the years, have become prime landholdings that are now too costly to develop for low-cost housing for both the government and the intended beneficiaries," Pamintuan said.

"We are now studying possibilities of either disposing or securitizing these properties to raise funds for socialized and low-cost housing for the urban poor and ordinary workers and employees," he added.

He stressed, however, that any plan to dispose NHA properties will have to be approved by Malacañang and other appropriate agencies, and will be done in full transparency.

He said idle but prime NHA properties like those at the North Triangle in Diliman, Quezon City as well as in many other key cities are easily worth tens of billions of pesos. The value of these lands, he added, have appreciated tremendously, making them too expensive to develop and unaffordable to the intended beneficiaries.

Pamintuan, meanwhile, reported that during the first quarter of the year, the NHA has built 7,556 shelter units, or about 19 percent of its total target of 39,574 this year. Of these, 2,377 were built in the National Capital Region and 2,978 in the Southern Tagalog Region.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has promised to deliver more housing units and basic services to the urban poor. Being the main state agency for socialized housing, Pamintuan said the NHA has to strengthen its capabilities to support the commitments of the President.

SENNHEISER MICS FOR THE CARDINAL

His Eminence Ricardo Cardinal Vidal of the Archdiocese of Cebu was recently presented with a Sennheiser microphone model e835 by Corazon S. Gochiuco, senior vice president of Yamaha and Perfect Pitch Stores Visayas and Mindanao operations during a courtesy call at the Cardinal's office. Yupangco Electronics Corp. is the exclusive Philippine distributor of Sennheiser microphones from Germany.

Freego Mechanix: jeans with cell pocket

FUN and functionality. This is the essence of Freego's exciting back-to-school collection premiering in all leading department stores this month.

As one of the country's leading jeans brand, Freego delivers on its promise of offering comfortable, fun and functional clothing.

"The Freego Mechanix line provides style with functionality to suit the active lifestyles of young people today," says Eva Ang, marketing services manager for Freego.

The highlight of the back-to-school look for Freego Mechanix is a pocket for cellphones located at the jeans' left back pocket. It's a cool new feature that lets the wearer tuck his phone from inside his back pocket, yet stays in place on the sides of his hips. Not only that. All Freego Mechanix products are borne out of the same technological breakthrough that brought Jeanetics (a fusion of science and nature in denim fashion) to consumers last season.

Freego Mechanix jeans feature the same qualities all Jeanetics products are known for: excellent fit and ultra-comfortable.

Freego Mechanix jeans are crafted from only the highest quality fabrics, based on the latest technology and research findings in the fields of biomechanics, ergonomics, and anthropometry (the science of human body measurements).

Technology updates the looks with unique fabrics that will never discolor. Technology also increases functionality with useful details such as an extra pocket to store small items such as lighters and keys.

The Maxi Loose fit provides the core-product offering of Freego Mechanix, with a broad range of twills and denims. Making it easy for students to dress up or down and meet the standard requirements of today's dress codes on campus.

The Freego Mechanix collection also offers T-shirts in a variety of colors and a selection of shorts for men, ladies and kids—all at affordable prices.

"We understand that today's clothing for young people must not only be comfortable, functional, and stylish, but also be available at affordable prices. This collection meets those requirements," adds Ang.

As Freego Mechanix hits the metro this month, Freego treats its loyal patrons to an exciting promo. From July 1-15, get a free Mechanix CD containing today's hottest hits for every purchase of Freego men's or ladies' jeans or shorts.

Inside each Mechanix CD is yet another surprise: a P50 discount coupon, which can be availed of in the next purchase of Freego men's or ladies' jeans or shorts. This discount promo is ongoing from July 16-31.

Also, radio jocks in three FM stations in Metro Manila—97.1 LSFM, Magic 89.9 DWTM and DWRR 101.9—will also give away Freego Mechanix shirts via a love phone-in promo called "The Freego Mechanix Game." The same radio promo is also airing in top stations in WRR-FM Cebu, and DXRV 103.5 Campus Radio, Energy 88.3 FM and WRR-FM in Davao.

AN APPEAL TO HER EXCELLENCY, GMA

WE, the undersigned officers and members of different associations, groups and federations that comprise and represent the entire LEATHER INDUSTRY in the country, would like to request HER EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO to issue an Executive Order to **"BAN the EXPORT of all kinds of cattle and carabao rawhides and animal skins including all types of semi-processed leather (whether wet or dry stage) except for finished leather"** based on the following urgent reasons:

A. The country's supply of cattle, carabao and other animal skins can barely meet the requirements of local tanners who, in turn, supply all the leather needs of entrepreneurs in the shoe and leathergood industries.

FACT No. 1: Presently, only around 700,000 heads are being slaughtered in the whole country. This is equivalent to around 20 million square feet of leather which can produce approximately 10 million pairs of shoes. Clearly, our supply of rawhides (sariwang balat) is not even enough to produce 1 pair of shoes per person to our present populatiion estimated at more than 70 million.

FACT No. 2: To replace the volume of rawhides we loose annually due to export, the industry has to IMPORT (buy from foreign manufacturers) shoes worth $117.6 Million or P5.645 Billion (computed at the exchange rate of $1 to P48). This includes popular **brandnames*** such as Florsheim, Timberland, San Remo, Dexter, Hush Puppies, Sperry, Martens, Bass, Prada, Cole Hann to the elite and fashionable Versace, Salvatorre Ferragamo, Bally, Gucci, YSL, Pierre Cardin, Valentino and other glamorous and expensive European-made shoes to name a few. Ironically, Europe is one of the biggest reported destination of our locally-produced rawhides that are EXPORTED by unscrupulous merchants who, for plain greed for profit without regard to the effect on local industry, continuously dilute the country's dollar reserve.

The above-cited facts hold true with other LEATHERGOOD industry (that includes the manufacture of bags, belt, garment, accessories) and the lucrative FURNITURE industry based in Cebu and Pampanga provinces.

FACT No. 3: We consider the present situation of the leather industry as absurd. Why, because we export our vital raw materials and in turn buy them in the form of very expensive finished products like leather, shoes, bags and other fashionable leather accessories.

B. The proposed BAN on EXPORT is only for raw hides, and semi-processed leather, and NOT on FINISHED LEATHER. With a steady supply of raw hides, tanneries in Meycauayan, Bulacan, shoemakers in Marikina and Biñan, Laguna and leathergood manufacturers nationwide will be assured of continuing business that our economy needs badly during these trying times. Also, tanneries can sell their finished leathers locally to other traders such as the Cebu-based and Pampanga-based furniture makers, automotive upholstery plants in Laguna, garment and glove industries in Bataan and Clark export zones.

FACT No. 4: Exporting finished leather and globally in-demand leather products results to a higher value (of exports) which translates to MORE DOLLARS pumped into our economy including the employment of more than 56,000 WORKERS dependent on the leather industry.

With these FACTS and FIGURES, we, therefore, respectfully pray to HER EXCELLENCY to heed our urgent appeal through a prompt and decisive EXECUTIVE ORDER to rescue us from the manipulative influence of big-time and well-moneyed exporters, WHOM, we fear in a matter of three months time, will demolish and kill the entire PHILIPPINE LEATHER INDUSTRY for unpatriotic and selfish motives.

"IT DOES NOT MAKE ANY ECONOMIC SENSE TO ALLOW EXPORT OF VITAL RAW MATERIALS."

Mary Lazaro
MARY LAZARO - President
TANNERS ASSOCIATION
OF THE PHILIPPINES

ARTHUR SORIANO - President
LEATHER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
OF THE PHILIPPINES

LITO LOPEZ - President
PHILIPPINE FOOTWEAR
FEDERATION INC.

SHERWIN YU - President
ASSOCIATION OF PHILIPPINE
LEATHERGOOD EXPORTER
AND MANUFACTURERS

ELLEN TIONGSON - President
LEATHER CHEMICAL INDUSTRY
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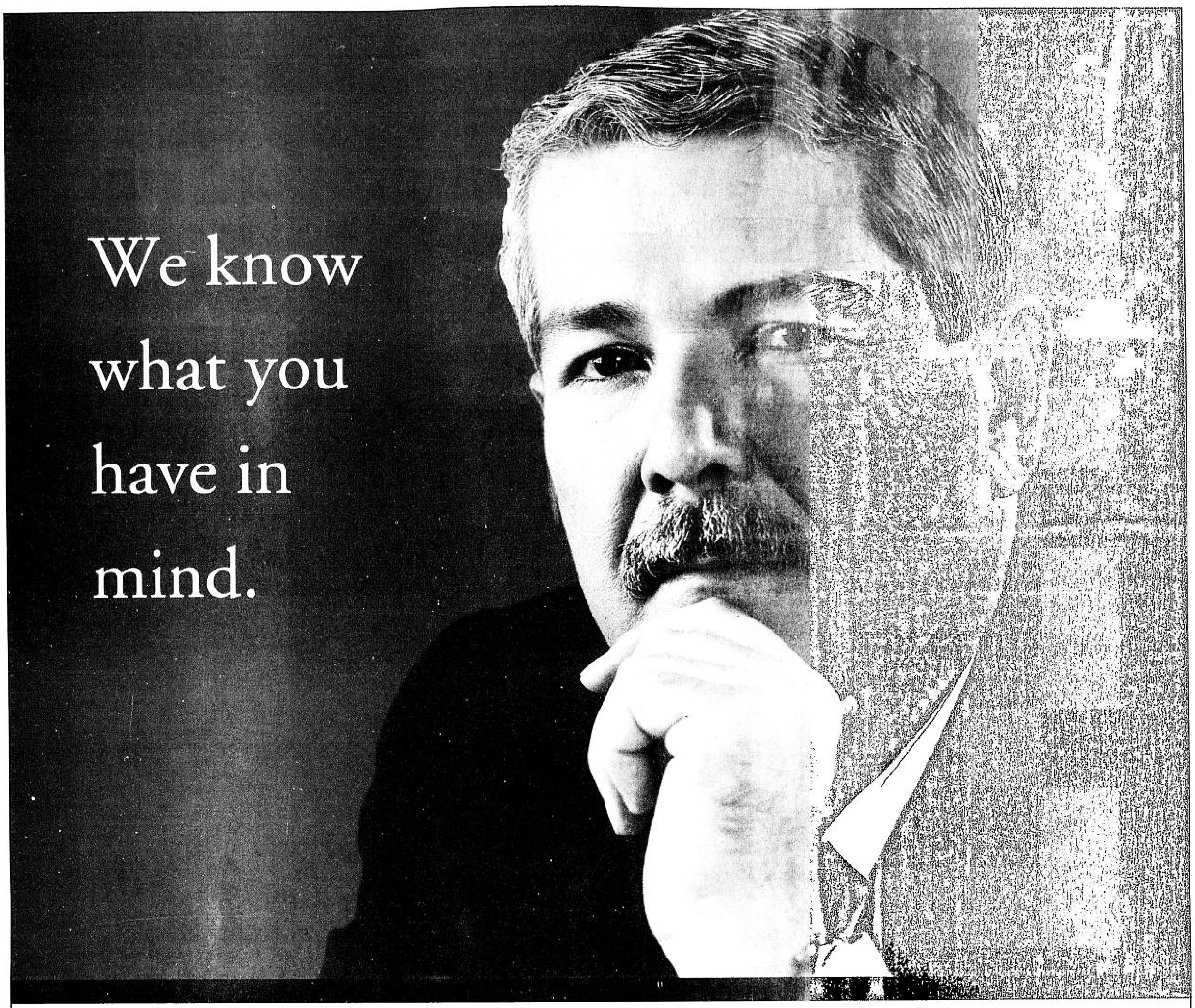

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BSP set to tighten 'fit-and-proper' rule

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MONETARY Board will issue this week a circular tightening its "fit-and-proper rule" to weed out persons unfit to run the country's banks.

In an interview Friday, BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the circular would bar relatives of shareholders and incumbent directors by blood and affinity to the fourth degree from being appointed as independent directors of banks.

It would also require all bank directors to attend a seminar on corporate governance focusing on their duties and responsibilities, he said. The seminar, to be accredited by the central bank, was a new requirement on top of a college education or a business experience.

"In considering whether one is fit and proper, the Monetary Board would have to use its discretion and be guided by qualities like integrity, education, experience, training, and competence," Reyes told reporters.

In line with the new policy, the central bank would start maintaining a watch list of officers and directors with violations that could lead to their temporary or permanent disqualification from any sensitive position in any bank.

Section 16 of Republic Act 8791 allows the Monetary Board to "prescribe, pass upon and review the qualifications of individuals, elected or appointed bank directors or officers and disqualify those found unfit."

The fit-and-proper rule, said Reyes, was meant to ensure that banks would be run competently and to protect depositors and the general public by ensuring those who managed their money were honest and capable people.

The law, he added, also allowed the Monetary Board to disqualify, suspend or remove directors or officers of banks "who commit an act rendering him unfit for the position."

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Transco sale to chalk up $2.4B-$2.7B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT should chalk up some $2.4 billion to $2.7 billion from the sale of the National Transmission Corp. (Transco), the head of the newly created agency said Friday.

Transco officer-in-charge Asiscio Gonzaga said this price range was a working target. "It will depend on the prospective buyers who would surely bargain," he said.

Transco was created following the approval of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act. The company would take over all transmission facilities of the National Power Corp., which was being broken up into several companies to make it easier to sell to private corporations.

In Transco's case, according to Gonzaga, the government may either sell it outright or enter into a 25-year concession contract.

Gonzaga, who is also Napocor's senior vice president and chief operating officer, said the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. had the authority to privatize Transco.

But Transco, along with Napocor's other disposable assets, had yet to be transferred to Psalm Corp., he said.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said earlier this week that he was personally inclined to privatize Transco first before Napocor's power generating assets.

"I think it will make the generation companies sale attractive if the buyers know who will manage the Transco," Perez said.

He added that having a $450-million project loan from the Asian Development Bank would greatly help in selling Transco.

The loan is for the interconnection of Leyte and Mindanao, which is part of an overall move to set up a single national grid for the entire archipelago.

Manila Water says capex to hit P2B

By Christine A. Gaylican

AYALA-OWNED Manila Water Services Inc. may need to increase its capital expenditures program by some P2 billion in the next two years to lay additional pipelines in its service area.

"We may need additional financing of not less than P500 million. We intend to finalize our new capex program for the second half," Manila Water president Antonino Aquino told the Inquirer.

Manila Water earlier set a P1-billion yearly capital expenditure plan.

Aquino said given the state of Manila Water's pipelines, P1 billion would not be enough, but he declined to elaborate how the company would go about its capital expenditure plans for 2002 and 2003.

Manila Water, he said, was laying down new pipelines in areas outside Manila, especially in poor urban centers like Masinag and Manggahan in Quezon City and in Montalban, Rizal.

"After completing our existing projects at the Katipunan and Blue Ridge areas, we will look at other places, which is not at the center of our service distribution areas," Aquino said.

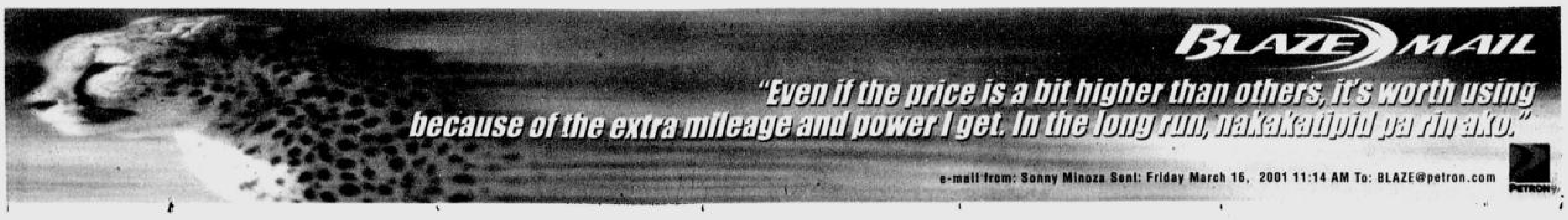
Manila Water has reported that the debts it acquired from the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System have ballooned to P11 billion from P6 billion because of the peso's depreciation against the US dollar.

Most of these debts are dollar-denominated.

Aquino said despite this financial burden, Manila Water was not cutting back on its capital expenditure, unlike its twin concessionaire, Maynilad Water Services Inc.

"We will continue with our projects. We have developed a business plan that would cover our foreign exchange losses but it would require a lot of belt-tightening on our part," he said.

The Ayala-owned Manila Water has petitioned for a new basic water rate increase of P1 per cubic meter.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BUSINESS Monday
MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

PLDT hangs up on the old, says hello to the new

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. president and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan believes in the convergence strategy.

Convergence, in this sense, is the fusion of data, broadcast and telecommunications in a single body.

But he had to brace himself for another form of convergence when he took over the company in 1998: the fusion of different cultures of people from all walks of life.

Cultural mix

Among his first orders was to literally break down the walls in PLDT. He remodeled several floors creating less barriers among people and less enclosures for management.

When Pangilinan's First Pacific Holdings acquired a major stake in PLDT, he wanted to come up with a more dynamic business to keep up with the times.

With this in mind, other businesses were acquired or created to enhance PLDT's already strong command of the telecommunications market.

Among these were Home Cable for pay TV and ePLDT for Internet, e-commerce and multimedia activities. First Pacific already owned Smart Communications Inc., which is into wireless communications.

MANNY Pangilinan tears down more than just physical barriers when he took over the telecommunications giant. Tony Boy Cojuangco, whose family ruled PLDT for decades, leads the company in the manner called for by the times.

Each acquisition brought with it its own people and its own corporate culture.

"Take the case of Smart for example. It had younger people who were very marketing-driven," PLDT human resources and organization development senior vice president Victorico Vargas says.

He says it was hard for the PLDT management to incorporate these new cultures with the age-old traditions they have grown with for more than 70 years.

For so long, PLDT had leaned more toward the engineering and the technical. It was not very marketing-driven.

"We had to create a new PLDT group culture across all the companies," he adds.

Bridging the cultural gap

Pangilinan himself admits that they had to face a lot of challenges when he first took over the company.

"Because we were not homegrown, we had to deal with an existing structure. We had to assess what was going on," he says.

Vargas backs this up and says that the transition period from the Cojuangco to the Pangilinan administration was no easy road.

"We had to bridge the learning of the past to what we want (PLDT) to be now. To do this, we changed the organization mix from the top," he says.

He adds that a lot of good managers were brought in to help them attain their thrust of turning the management into a marketing-driven one from the engineering-driven one of the past.

"The new administration formed functional committees to synergize the group. We also had to reassess the competencies of our people," he says.

In the process, Vargas admits that they had to let a lot of people go.

PLDT's workforce was cut down from 18,000 to just over 13,000 in two to three years.

"But there was a lot of communication between management and the employees so we were able to arrive at mutually satisfactory agreements," he says.

He also disclosed that they will let go of up to 500 people next month under the voluntary redundancy program.

"But they will be getting reasonable separation packages," he says.

Cojuangco's time

Juan Velasquez, executive assistant to former PLDT president Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, agrees that the management style must be different during the two administrations but he says it was more because times were different.

"The tasks PLDT are facing today are different from the ones we faced before. This is a much more difficult time. Monopolistic barriers are now down, there are new competitions worldwide," Velasquez tells the INQUIRER.

He says he can not directly compare the management styles of Cojuangco and Pangilinan but he says Tonyboy's style of management was appropriate at that time.

"The Cojuangco family has been in business for a long time, so they already have a lot of experience. Manny, I am sure is faced with a lot more different challenges,"

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COO adopts point guard's role: Assist people in scoring goals

By Abigail L. Ho

SHE believes that the role of a point guard is not just to call the plays, but to assist other players in the executions of these plays.

With a basketball coach for a father, Microsoft Great Plains (MSGP) chief operating officer Jodi Uecker-Rust learned to love basketball at an early age. Unlike her two older sisters who did not get to see action on the hardcourt, Jodi has been playing almost all her life.

UECKER-RUST

MANAGEMENT STYLES

Actually, she still plays for the Great Plains team in Fargo, North Dakota. At 39, she is the oldest player on the team.

But she makes up for not being able to keep up with the players who are just in their 20s by her decision-making skills and quick thinking developed through years of hard work.

And she even brings her basketball skills to the company—not by playing for the team, but by adopting basketball principles in managing her people.

"I think the role of a point guard is basically to assist others and to throw the ball to someone when they're open. In any leadership position, a part of the role of a leader is to assist others, to know when people are ready to step up and to be involved in a new challenge" she says.

Knowing how to work as a team is one more value she learned from basketball. In fact, she says teamwork is "the leadership philosophy I've been playing."

In MSGP, employees are called "team members." People actually get to make their own decisions which makes them feel really part of the company they are working for.

MSGP is the business solutions arm of Microsoft. It was acquired by the software giant only last April and opened an office in the Philipines just a few weeks ago.

Rust reveals that Microsoft wants the Philippines to be the Asian hub of MSGP.

For Rust, being an MSGP team member is more of a choice than a mandate. If people do not want to be part of a team it is more or less their call. Rust says she encourages her people to be "a team of leaders" rather than individuals trying to outshine each other.

"It's not about being a team leader. It's about being a team of leaders that have shared directions, shared visions and one goal. At many times, a point guard is just coordinating players that are much better than she is. A lot of times, that's what I do because there are people who know a lot more about technology or sales than I do," she says.

She finds out her people's strengths and weaknesses by being very open and communicative. She believes that open communication lines and open minds are what make a team really work.

"Sure, there are individuals that do great things, but it is important that the team succeeds," she says.The employees are made to feel their participation in company decisions.

Like MSGP's location—in the middle of vast plains—the atmosphere inside the office is anything but stifling because people can actually go to work dressed in shorts and sneakers.

In a magazine article by Thomas Bedell, he wrote that working around the halls of MSGP in a suit or tie means that that person is either attending a funeral or looking for another job.

"We're very casual here," she says.

One other great philosophy she got from basketball is her knowing when to make new things happen.

"As a pointguard, you have to know when to call a new play. From a business standpoint, it's knowing when we need to do something different and when we need to challenge people's thinking a little bit more," she says.

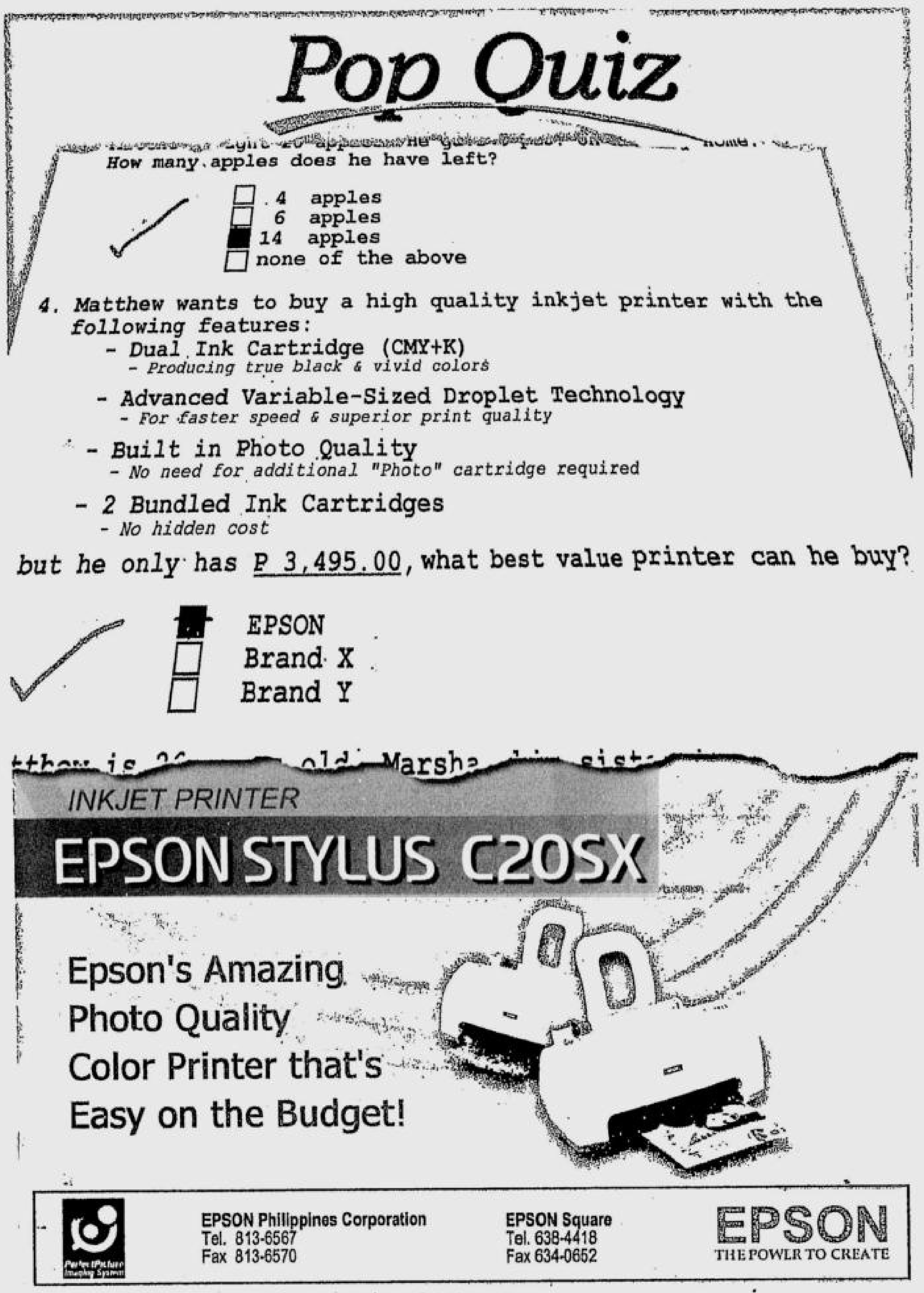
She has been met with a lot "new plays," in her life, including the death of her mother when she was just 13 years old and being recruited for her job during her wedding day. With these experiences, Rust says she has learned a lot of things, including responsibility and being closer to her family.

With the death of her mother, she learned to live each day as if it were her last. She adopted this philosophy as a mother herself and as a leader in MSGP.

She also became closer to her siblings. This has also helped her become a good leader who always aims to create a cohesive team.

So not only does she call the plays on the hardcourt, she calls them too, in the office.

But not without acknowledging the fact that there are people out there who are better than she is in certain aspects.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☐ 6 apples
☒ 14 apples
☐ none of the above
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- Advanced Variable-Sized Droplet Technology
  - For faster speed & superior print quality
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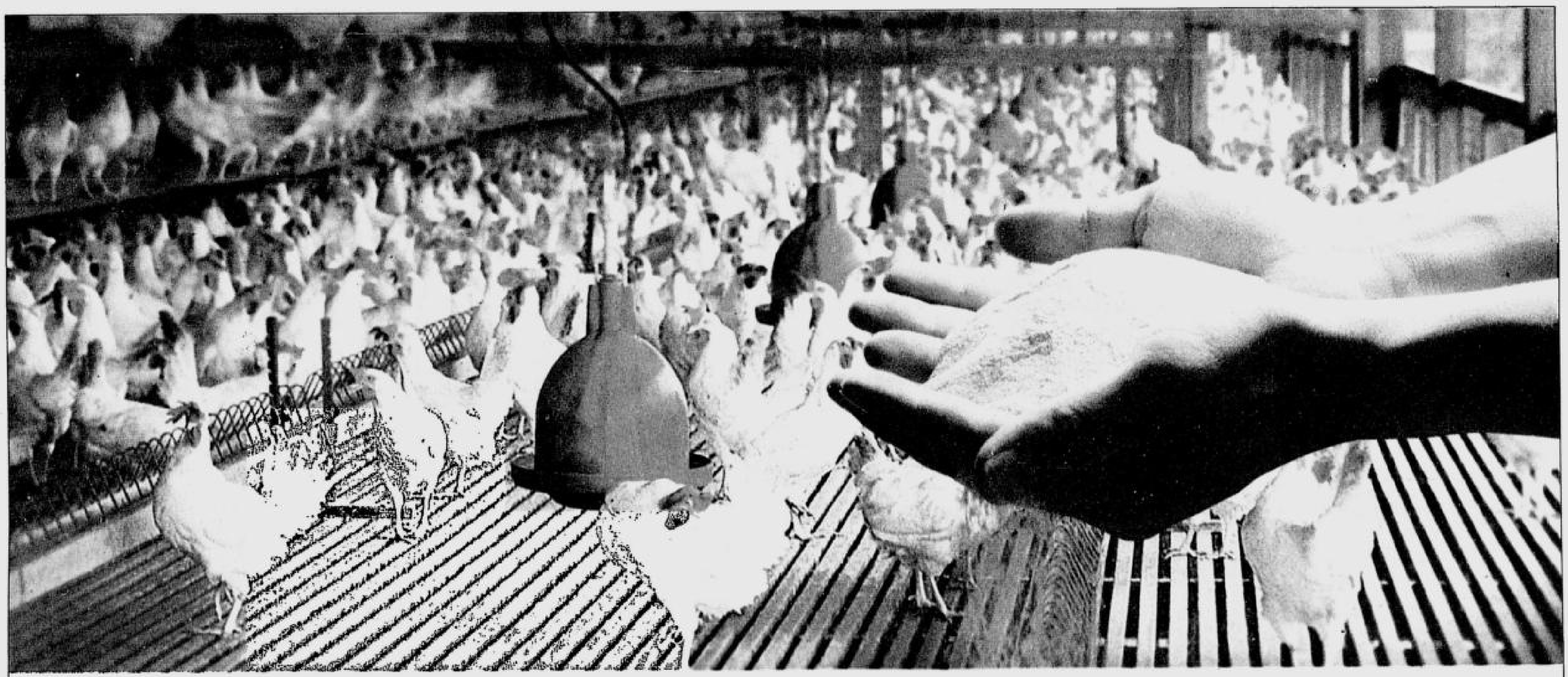
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Insurance and guarantees in emerging markets

(First of two parts)

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Jesus G. Tirona

Devolution of authority—an opportunity:

AS IN many countries in the world, the Philippines has been engaged in a variety of new developments including the financial empowerment of local government units as part of the devolution of governing powers from the National Government (NG) to the Local Government Unit (LGU).

In 1991, a landmark legislation called "The Local Government Code" (LGC) was enacted providing, among others, various opportunities for LGUs to increase their fund source base through taxation (property, education, amusement, etc.), intensified tax collection and borrowings from Government Financial Institution (GFI) or government and multilateral fund programs.

The code in fact encouraged the LGU to seek non-traditional modes of financing from Private Financial Institution (PFI) and/or private investors, i.e. bond floatation.

A key component of the NG/LGU relationship is the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) system that prescribed a percentage (currently at 40 percent) of national taxes collected by the LGU to be subsequently remitted back to the LGU (after three years) to fund development activities.

The LGU is free to appropriate the IRA funds for any purpose and, under existing rules, are deposited only with the GFIs.

Prior to the Code, there existed a huge requirement for public infrastructure projects, which the NG could not support given a yawing budget deficit. Thus, allowing LGUs "access" to private funds was a well-articulated policy of government calculated to wean the LGUs' away from being dependent on very limited coffers.

Notwithstanding its fiscal autonomy, LGUs in general did not really seize the opportunity to go into more creative financing modes.

In a study conducted in 1997, only 6 percent of the debts were through credit accommodations from GFIs and beneficiaries were mostly higher-class LGUs. Fund sourcing was still limited to local taxes, grants and IRA transfers.

Consequently, there remained a big gap between infrastructure needs and projects actually undertaken. There clearly was an impetus for private sector to step in and assist in the financing of the LGU's economic activities that will bolster resources, which in turn will provide basic needs of the constituents. However, this is easier said than done.

Rationale for establishing the LGUGC:

LGUs hesitate to resort to market-based credits because of their low borrowing capacity on account of low tax base and a dearth of technical expertise in undertaking feasibility studies and financial packaging.

Private banks, on the other hand, have "zero" knowledge of the LGUs since IRA and other depository balances – generally regarded as a first step to establishing a credit history - are kept with the government banks as mandated.

This scenario failed to provide a supportive environment for LGUs and private banks to get to know one another over time.

Meantime, the resources of the GFI had been insufficient to meet the estimated P25B ($500M) potential LGU debt.

Recognizing the problem, the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), having the least exposure to LGUs among the GFIs, approached the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), an umbrella organization of all commercial and universal banks, to collaborate in linking the LGUs and the PFIs by providing a credit guarantee scheme to cover LGU debt defaults.

The DBP was to serve as a seeding partner to the BAP banks.

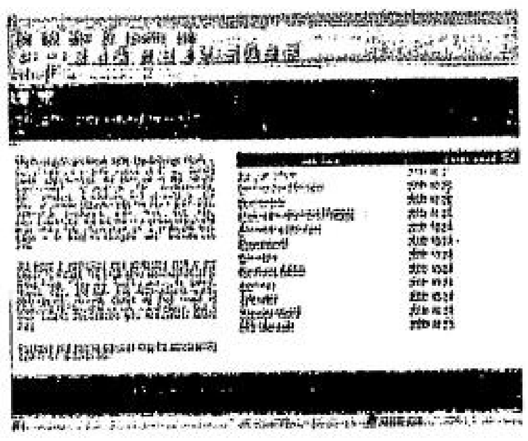
The call for support was heeded and the LGU Guarantee Corp. (LGUGC) was thus born. It was timely for the PFIs to take a second look at a "new breed of borrowers" because the banks were highly liquid due to the cautious lending stance they had adopted since the start of the July 1997 Asian financial crisis.

The introduction of a 100 percent guarantee cover, in addition to initially financing only self-liquidating projects and taking an assignment on the LGU's assets and deposits, was expected to have the PFIs view the LGUs as bankable propositions.

Private sector initiative

In March 1998, the LGUGC was registered as a private sector-led credit guarantee/enhancing corporation with P216 million ($4.320 million) paid-up seed fund out of

INSURANCE/ C4



E-cruitment website: Must-have for businesses

THE CONCEPT of local online job vacancy announcements, which grew from its humble beginnings in the mid-1990s into maturity last year, unquestionably revolutionized job ad posting in the country.

Yet, while the classified ads section of newspapers still remains as the single biggest source of job ads among local job seekers, a huge group of information technology, engineering and other related professionals have almost exclusively fumed to online e-cruitment websites.

Indeed, fresh graduates since 1999 and most of the young generation (generation text) have been brought up in this new era of online recruitment ads. And since, they have not developed the habit of browsing traditional job ads, they immediately embraced this more sensible and practical e-cruising culture.

One company is pre-launching an innovative ready-to-run basic recruitment website service. Internet Software Solutions Incorporated (ISSI), an e-commerce company offering online business services, such as b2b, b2c and b2e, is now starting to market a unique and timely, complete e-cruitment application package (web software, web database, web hosting and web template design).

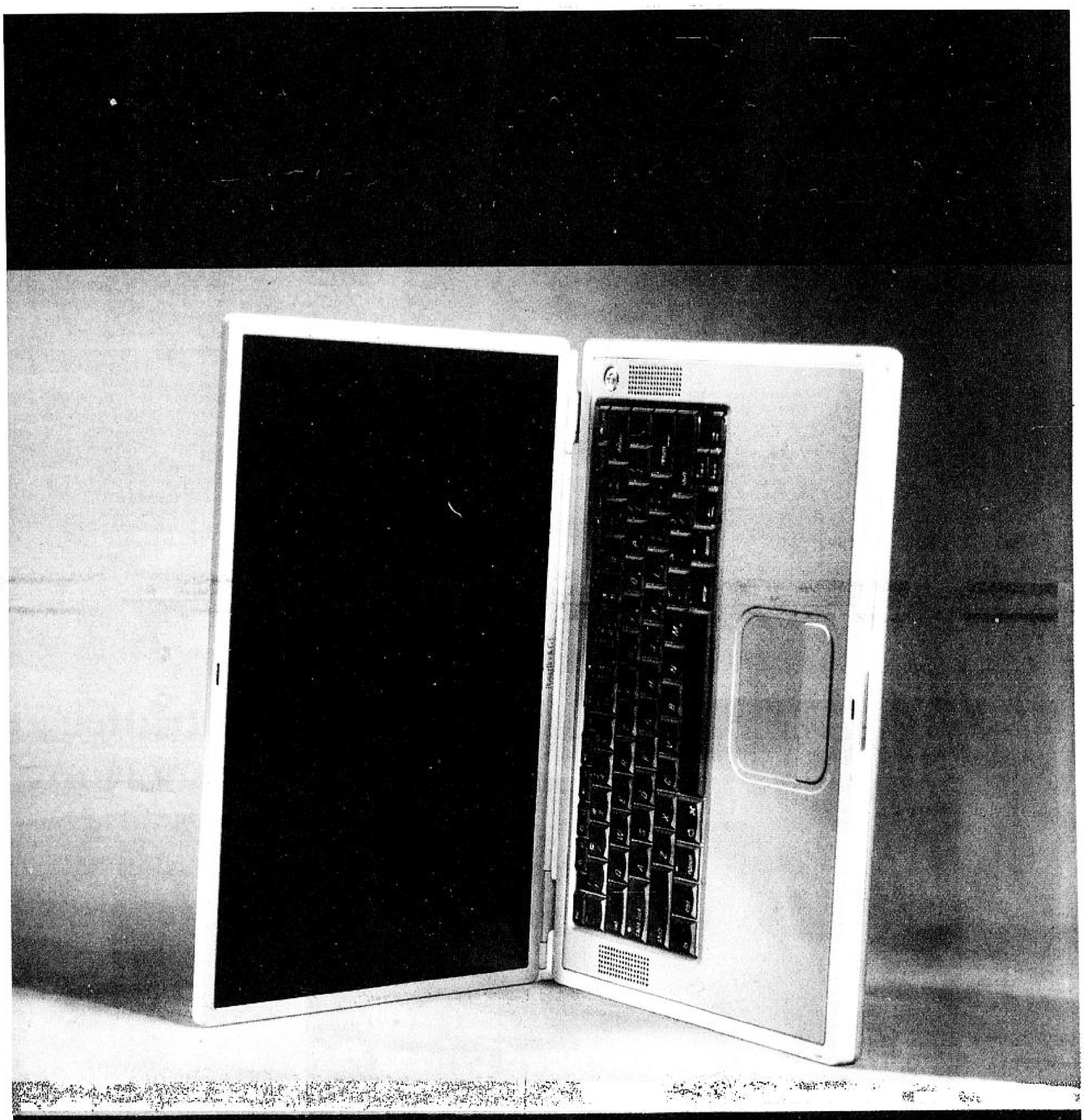
This package is geared to address a specific company's particular e-cruising needs. It includes a unique and easy to remember web address per company, unlimited job ad posting and editing, as well as unlimited resume responses. It also boasts of an online active file system, an applicant referral system and a customized online application form. Online and traditional marketing services and promotions for each recruitment website will be provided as part of the other add-on benefits.

E-cruitment, which is the process of attracting and securing talents online, has been existing for close to 10 years already, almost as old as the web itself. This is the principal promise of e-cruitment website.

Why is an e-cruitment website important to all businesses? For one, the younger generation is already hooked into the e-cruitment culture. Looking at the real essence of recruiting and its ultimate purpose within an organization, we can safely say that attracting the younger generation is just part of the overall realization of their objective. The main thing is not only to attract but to hire, keep and train the best people and most qualified individuals for the job.

Today, more and more of the best people have turned to e-cruitment, those with computer, creative, multi-media and Internet skills for one. Technology-driven, results-oriented, systematic and resourceful people, not just on the IT and engineering fields, especially the SMS, WAP and 3G generation will look at online job ad opportunities. And because of this trend, industry watchers are projecting that within as little as two more years, majority of the best local, if not all the young people, including all succeeding college graduates, will only be captured online.

Companies who are interested to know more about this pioneering e-cruitment package and how it can address their current recruiting concerns and help facilitate their manpower planning may contact ISSI's Metro Manila sales office at 878-8510.



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PLDT hangs . . .

(From page C1)

Velasquez stresses.

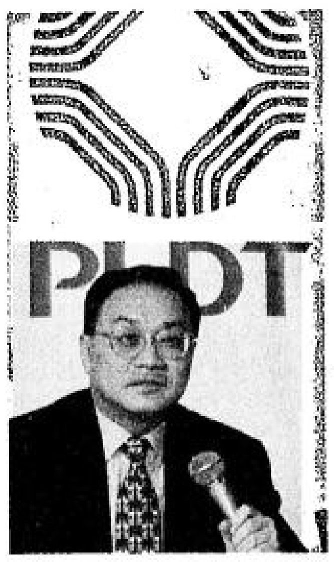
Patronage to entrepreneurship

People who stayed when Cojuangco left were retrained to ensure that they maintain their high level of competency.

"We intensified our training program and made it more computer-based," Vargas says.

PLDT took its training program so seriously that it received an ISO certification for this.

"We're the only telecommunications company in the country to have an ISO-certified training program," he says with pride.



UNLIKE his predecessor who had time to go home for lunch, Manny Pangilinan puts in work even on Sundays, much to the dismay of some of his people.

Vargas says that this training would well prepare their employees to make decisions on their own.

"There used to be a patronage culture in PLDT. When an authority says something, subordinates should immediately comply without question," he says.

In this administration, however, people are actually encouraged to think for themselves and make up their own minds.

"Mr. Pangilinan believes in entrepreneurship or taking responsibility for one's own actions. He is an entrepreneur himself so he understands the importance of freedom in decision-making," he says.

He adds that they are trying to achieve a "paperless organization," where most communication and report will be sent via the Net.

"This would be a reflection of people making their own decisions," he added.

Delegating authority

Velasquez, on the other hand, says that Cojuangco as chief executive was not authoritarian as some people may think, rather, he delegated to people who were competent in their individual fields.

Cojuangco, he says, was more focused on dealing with the government since PLDT depended a lot on government to continue its business. He made sure that those avenues of communication were always open.

"I think Tonyboy did his best to find many different avenues to interface with employees, maybe not by directly talking to them, but through different avenues. As long as the work gets done, that's what's important," he says.

Open, approachable and transparent

Pangilinan, meanwhile, believes in giving his people freedom to make their own decisions.

Vargas says Pangilinan actually chats with his employees about anything and everything.

"Communication is more participatory now and the approach is more hands-on. We're breaking the silos and making the organization flatter," he adds.

Unlike before when decisions were just issued from the top down, decisions are now made as a collegial body.

"There is a lot more talking and openness with employees in terms of policies," he says.

Because of this, the company has made a turn-around from being a "blaming society" to a communicating organization.

"And our policies are more flexible now. When someone makes a request, we look more at the intent of the request than at the policy involved," he says.

He also says Pangilinan was very approachable. He walks around the office and does regular visits to PLDT's telephone exchanges all over the country despite his heavy schedule.

"He even makes it a point to talk to all the PLDT people in an open discussion, like a town hall meeting," Vargas says.

But being open, Pangilinan also expects his people to be open to his calls almost on a 24/7 basis.

Stories abound of how it was during Cojuangco's time when he would not want to listen to anymore work-related issues days before Christmas.

In contrast, Pangilinan once held a meeting until 9 in the evening on Christmas eve and would phone his people even on Sundays.

He himself goes to work everyday of the week.

Just rewards

The Pangilinan administration does not believe in mediocrity.

"We are trying to really make this organization performance-driven. We want to instill in our people a culture of excellence, which means that mediocrity is not something that we'd promote and tolerate," Vargas says.

And just rewards await the achievers and performers.

"We want them to feel that they are being rewarded because they worked hard for it and not simply because they deserve to get some benefits," he adds.

Vargas admits, however, that the Pangilinan administration still has a long way to go.

"We don't expect to achieve everything in just two to three years," he says.

But it does help that Pangilinan "does not sit in an ivory tower."

Drugmaker seeing fruits of 1996 merger

EAST HANOVER, New Jersey—A new leukemia drug from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp. is considered so revolutionary that health and human services secretary Tommy G. Thompson himself announced its federal approval last month.

That medication, called Gleevec, is only part of what's in the works at Novartis. The company expects to launch seven new or reformulated products in the US market and abroad this year and nine more in the following two years.

Among the latter group is a once-a-day version of Ritalin, its blockbuster hyperactivity drug.

The steady flow of products comes five years after Novartis AG's creation through a merger between Swiss pharmaceutical firms Sandoz AG and Ciba-Geigy AG, which both had their US headquarters in northern New Jersey.

The combined company started slowly—both Sandoz and Ciba-Geigy had mostly mature medications facing generic competition and marketing efforts in the United States, by far the world's largest source of drug sales, were inadequate.

"They've come out of a lull," said Nigel Barnes, a pharmaceutical analyst with Merrill Lynch. "The management has done an excellent job."

Barnes said Novartis had a 31 percent profit margin on its pharmaceutical operations last year, best in the highly competitive industry.

Once known as a niche player, Novartis is now putting more effort into developing drugs with mass-market appeal. An example is Exelon, which has been shown to slow the progress of Alzheimer's disease, along with cancer and cardiac medications.

Paulo Costa, president and chief executive of North American operations for Swiss-based parent company Novartis AG, is forecasting annual profit growth exceeding 12 percent over the next few years. Barnes said 10 percent is more realistic, but it could be higher if any of the new drugs turn out to be big hits.

Last year pharmaceuticals accounted for $10.5 billion of Novartis AG's $17.3 billion in sales. The company says six of its drugs had sales of more than $600 million, led by transplant drug Sandimmun/Neoral.

Executives credit the financial success to efforts to boost sales of existing products and a push to get new drugs to market faster by creating divisions focused on specific therapeutic areas.

Those divisions control their own budget, research and the many steps involved in getting a new drug approved and into the marketplace, said Dr. Lawrence Perlow, senior vice president for specialty drugs.

At the same time, Novartis Pharmaceutical nearly doubled its US sales force to 5,200 representatives. Kurt Graves, senior vice president for mass-market drugs, said the company aggressively recruited experienced salespeople and tried new marketing strategies.

One of the most successful has been for Lamisil, a nail fungus treatment.

With the market for such fungal drugs shrinking, Novartis began advertising heavily on television and visiting doctors with the message that fungal nail infections are a serious condition. Lamisil sales have surged as a result, Graves said.

The company is now getting attention for Gleevec, which in medical studies helped more than 90 percent of patients with chronic myeloid leukemia, which kills about 2,300 Americans each year. Gleevec targets a protein causing the disease, but doesn't harm healthy cells, as other cancer drugs do.

"It's changed the way we look at cancer therapy," said Dr. Deborah Dunsire, head of North American cancer research at Novartis.

Dunsire said Gleevec's real potential may be in treating more common forms of cancer, such as brain, gastrointestinal, prostate and small-cell lung cancers. Early and mid-stage patient studies are ongoing.

Meanwhile, Novartis AG recently paid $2.8 billion for a 20-percent stake in Swiss-based Roche Group, parent of drugmaker Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., leading to speculation of future partnerships or even a merger.

"A merger at this point would be disruptive," Costa said. "But if there's further industry consolidation, the most logical player to have Roche shares would be us, (and now) we have a placeholder." *AP*

Bank gets award for e-commerce service

PLANTERSBANK, the country's leading bank for SMEs, has received a distinct citation from the Asian Banking Awards 2001 for its e-commerce service known as SME.com.ph, which connects Philippine-based small and medium enterprises (SMEs) into the global market.

"This recognition from the prestigious Asian Banking Awards has made us all the more inspired to pursue our vision of empowering Filipino SMEs to compete globally," said Plantersbank president and chief operating officer Maria Flordelis Aguenza, who received the award in behalf of the bank during the gala awards dinner of the Asia Pacific Bankers Congress held recently in Bangkok, Thailand.

Presented by AT Kearney, in partnership with the Asian Bankers Association (ABA) and the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP), the Asian Banking Awards 2001 attracted some 157 entries from 54 banks in 15 countries. The most respected banking awards program for the Asia-Pacific region, it recognizes and honors Asian banks for outstanding, innovative and world-class products, services, projects and programs implemented during the previous year. Plantersbank won in the e-commerce project category together with Taiwan's Chinatrust Commercial Bank.

"Plantersbank shall come up with more innovative solutions and projects for the small and medium scale enterprises—a sector that plays a vital role in the country's efforts to achieve sustained economic growth," Aguenza added.

Launched just a year ago, the SME.com.ph is a joint venture of Plantersbank with the World Bank's International Finance Corp. (IFC) and Silicon Valley-based eVicor.

According to SME.com.ph president and CEO Ismael G. Estela Jr: "SME.com.ph lends Plantersbank the unique opportunity to deepen its relationship with SMEs by providing the much needed Web-based solutions that could help the entrepreneurs manage their business better, reduce their cost, expand their markets and be globally competitive."

SME.com.ph offers SMEs Internet services such as customized websites, online shops, webpage creation, website hosting, virtual showroom for products, search engine registration, among others. It is a complete Web store where SME clients can showcase and sell their products locally and globally. It has teamed up with six Internet companies to provide e-business tools like free personalized e-mail, free fax messaging, free PC-to-PC or PC-to-phone calls to the US, do-it-yourself digital greeting and business cards, downloadable ready-to-use forms and free international text messaging services as part of its Small Business Optimizer package. . . .

Queries pertaining to SME.com.ph's services may be addressed to its sales and marketing staff through Tel. Nos. 888-6643 to 45 or via e-mail at sales@plantersbankecommerce.com.

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PLANTERSBANK president and chief operating officer Flordelis Aguenza accepts the award from Thailand Finance Minister Somkid Jatusripitak as Asian Bankers Association chair Yung-San Lee looks on.

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SMOOTH AS SILK

Insurance and guarantees in emerging markets

(From page C3)

P500 million ($10 million). The participating member-banks own 51 percent outstanding shares that are held in trust by the BAP while the rest are held by the DBP with the intention to bring down its percentage ownership over a period of time.

A major foreign credit-enhancing corporation is currently doing its due-diligence with the end in view of taking stock in the company after giving consideration to forward strategic plans still based on 10x gearing.

The company maintains a lean structure, i.e. maximum of 20 regular staff and is top-heavy owing to the nature of its indirect lending activity. With its functional structure, LGUGC is able to breed "specialists" by having each employee responsible for one or two work tasks, at the same time promoting "multi-tasking" via a staff back-up system.

Birth pains

As earlier mentioned, the LGUGC was a logical outgrowth of two trends in the development of local finance in the Philippines, i.e. devolution and the resultant autonomy granted the LGUs and the franchise on IRA deposits enjoyed by the GFIs.

There was need for the LGUs to gain access to wider capital markets yet the private banking sector had no effective links with such entities. The LGUGC effectively "bridges" that gap.

LGUGC was thus given the mandate to stimulate the development of primary and secondary markets for LGU debts and usher in an active municipal bond market in five years.

The corporation is expected to achieve its mission by: (a) opening LGU access to PFI through its credit guarantees, (b) creating new financial instruments, (c) encouraging competition among all FIs and (d) promoting a standard credit scoring/rating system for LGUs.

Such strategies were anchored on NG's written credit segmentation policy that espoused private sector financing for the mature and already creditworthy LGUs for revenue-generating projects, the GFI lending for the less mature LGUs for their "general obligation" requirements and the special government program funds for lower-tiered LGUs.

Such market cuts augured well for the PFIs who were comfortable viewing cash flows as a first way-out.

A year later, it became apparent that a big difference existed between NG pronouncements and the actual scenario in LGU lending.

The GFIs became turf-conscious driving down the preferred market rates to concessional terms precisely because they had a natural competitive advantage, i.e. instant IRA deposit intercepts. Moreover, the LGUGC along with its accredited PFIs were wrongly perceived as competitors with respect to targeting the more endowed LGUs.

The uneven playing field tilted heavily in favor of the GFIs considering the opportunity loss to PFIs in terms of collateral business and lack of basis for pricing financial services.

To compound the problem, the NG through the Finance Department appears lukewarm in providing tax holidays for issue of LGU debt instruments as practiced in the more mature capital markets, citing the budget deficit as its main reason.

Many in the financial community have adopted a wait and see attitude. In fact, there was only one financial advisor and two PFI underwriters involved in the first six municipal bond floats enhanced since 1998.

An LGU credit rating agency and municipal bond counsel expert have yet to surface. Finally, considering the PFI's unfamiliarity with LGUs as unknown quantities, an evaluation or rating by a third party becomes an absolute necessity.

(This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and president and chief executive officer of LGU Guarantee Corporation. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph).

CONTINUING
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RESUMES
JULY 2, 2001
Office of City/Municipal
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–The Comelec

Bad money goes in bank washing machine, comes out clean

BY DENNIS M. ARROYO

1. What is money laundering?

It's like A-B-C. Kidnapper gets dirty money. Kidnapper hides dirty money under many bank accounts. Kidnapper withdraws the money and invests it in legitimate firms. Hence, the dirty money goes through a bank washing machine and comes out looking clean.

"Through money laundering, the criminal tries to transform the monetary proceeds derived from illicit activities into funds with an apparently legal source," says the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, 1997.

2. How big is the money laundering "industry"?

Every year, according to US estimates, around $600 billion in dirty money is laundered around the world. That sum is more than 30 times the gross domestic product of the Philippines.

3. Why is the problem urgent?

On the surface, the mess is urgent because we have been blacklisted.

The Financial Action Task Force counts the Philippines, Russia, and Nauru in its blacklist because of the failure to pass laws that fight money laundering. The official term used is "insufficient steps to fight the recycling of illicit gains." The Philippines is among the "non-cooperative."

The Paris-based FATF, composed of the industrialized nations, and the banks of the world will likely impose sanctions if the law isn't passed by Sept. 30, 2001.

On a deeper level, money laundering is urgent because of its great damage to the Philippines.

4. What damage does it do to the country?

It promotes criminals, encouraging kidnappers and drug pushers. It protects terrorists and threatens national security. It breeds corrupt government officials. It also harms the economy by compromising banks and other financial institutions. Money laundering siphons money away from private businesses and public tax coffers.

5. Has the problem caught the government's attention?

Very much so. At present the nation's laws do not consider money laundering as a criminal offense. The strict deposit secrecy law also hinders the state from monitoring fishy accounts.

So in the wake of the sanctions, Malacañang has announced plans to ask for the quick approval of an anti-money laundering bill.

Bank regulators have already finished writing the draft bill. This will be reviewed by lawyers, professors, bankers, and civil society. It then goes to the President for her to endorse to Congress. The new Congress should be working on the law by late July.

6. How exactly is money laundered?

Experts count three phases of money laundering.

The first is called Placement, or stashing the funds into a financial institution.

"Money has been laundered through currency exchange houses, stock brokerage houses, casinos, automobile dealerships, insurance companies and trading companies," continues the narcotics report. They use wire systems, shell corporations and offshore banking units.

For example, a shady politician asks friends to set up shell companies, or firms that exist only on paper. He invests in these companies.

The second phase is Layering: money is moved from one institution to another in a confusing trail.

"The funds might be channeled through the purchase and sales of investment instruments, or the launderer might simply wire the funds through a series of accounts at various banks across the globe," says the FATF.

The third phase is Integration. The crook gets back the funds from the various banks and invests them in a legitimate business.

7. How can money laundering be stopped?

This hanky panky can be most easily detected at the placement stage. That is why global authorities mandate rules that will spot suspicious deposits. Banks should have strict "know-your-depositor" regulations for accepting cash deposits.

How can layering be stopped? This is where bank transparency comes in. The state will have to get tougher with the wayward banks. Penalties for allowing money laundering may include blacklisting, fines, a required change in management, revocation of licenses and outright prosecution.

What about the integration stage? The government should strengthen asset forfeiture laws. That is, the state will have the full backing of the law to seize ill-gotten wealth. That will keep money launderers on their toes.

8. What is in the draft law?

Money laundering is now a crime. Those found guilty face up to 10 years in jail. The crime is non-bailable. And that's on top of the stiff fines.

Prosecution awaits those who participate in money laundering, those who receive funds from illegal sources, those who transmit the funds to others, those who invest laundered funds and those who conceal them to avoid examination.

* The bill creates the Financial Intelligence Unit or FIU. This body coordinates the work of the different government agencies in fighting money laundering.

* Regulators are given access to suspicious deposit accounts of at least P50 million. However, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura assures that the law will not be used for tax investigations.

* The reporting bank and its officers are granted immunity from suit. However, if the bank cooperates in the money laundering scheme, it will also be held liable.

* The state has the power to seize funds that are proven to come from illegal sources.

* Under study is a proposal to tie the local fight with the international. The United States wants the new law to cover illegal funds flowing from America to the Philippines.

Bank launches new product for big spenders

STANDARD Chartered recently rewarded the high net-worth market of professionals, businessmen and executives with an innovative product that features a high-yielding deposit that offers the flexibility to withdraw and deposit their money without the pretermination charges.

The "PowerEarner" account was recently introduced to offer high tiered-interest rates for a withdrawal of once in a calendar month. However, in case the client withdraws more than once, the PowerEarner will not incur pretermination charges and will still earn the regular savings account interest rate. And unlike a time deposit, the clients can make additional deposits anytime at their convenience.

In addition, the clients can access their account through over-the-counter withdrawal, through the ATM, or through check issuance. Standard Chartered is extending all these features of the PowerEarner by a minimum deposit of P50,000 only.

"The PowerEarner account reinforces the long-term commitment of Standard Chartered to serve the Philippine market with a wide range of products and excellent services," said Antonette delos Reyes, vice president and senior mananger for Product and Distribution of Wealth Management. "We are here to be financial solution providers, and PowerEarner has all the features to boost our clients' financial resources at any given time," she continued.

Standard Chartered Bank is the first foreign commercial bank in the Philippines, now celebrating 128 years of operations. It is part of the global network of over 650 offices/branches in 55 countries and 32,000 employees. Standard Chartered Philippines has recently ranked excellently in the Greenwich International Surveys for customer satisfaction along corporate banking, treasury, cash management and custody.

Credit card turns gold to address growing mart

THREE years and over 60,000 cards later, Shell-Citibank MasterCard turns Gold to address the growing market of mature and affluent motorists.

Higher spending limits, free vehicular registration service, free round-the-clock roadside assistance and towing service, and the best deals on automobile insurance coverage await the new Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard member.

According to Citibank's Sonya Perez-Bernas, assistant vice president for cards marketing, "We saw the demand for a Gold card in our market. Confident, successful and driving the car that makes him the envy of others on the road, he deserves to carry a Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard."

"This is the card for the Filipino motorist with sophisticated needs. Working closely with Citibank, we designed a product that would give our members ultimate mileage from fuel rebates to exclusive discounts and privileges in the country's leading retail and dining establishments," related Roel Cruz, head of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation's loyalty program for private motorists.

The leading credit card in its category, Shell-Citibank MasterCard gives the most free fuel to its members with a 2-percent rebate on all fuel purchases and 0.5-percent rebate on all other charges.

Cardholders also enjoy the unmatched security of 24-hour roadside assistance, seven days a week. Provided by partner Wheelers Club International, Shell-Citibank MasterCard members are entitled to free towing service anywhere in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu.

For Gold cardholders, Citibank and Shell are offering door-to-door car registration service. "They simply have to call in their request and Wheelers Club will take care of registering their car. They don't pay for the service, just the renewal fees," said Bernas.

Citibank product manager Mon del Rosario also pointed out Gold cardmembers can avail of the best deals on comprehensive auto coverage. "In partnership with Citicorp Financial Services and Insurance Brokerage Phils., our Gold cardholders only need to pay for own damage/theft inclusive of Acts of God cover. The other coverages including voluntary third party liability, bodily injury and property damage, automobile personal accident insurance and medical reimbursement are free," explained Del Rosario. Plus, your car insurance premiums will be conveniently charged in 12 easy-to-pay monthly installments to your card.

As a Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard member, you also enjoy all the benefits of having a Citibank Gold card: discounts and privileges in over 180 establishments nationwide with the Gold Exclusives program, free access to Northwest WorldClub in 22 airport locations worldwide regardless of the class or airline you fly, and free travel insurance when you charge your ticket to your card.

"With Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard, you not only get all these superior motoring and lifestyle ben-

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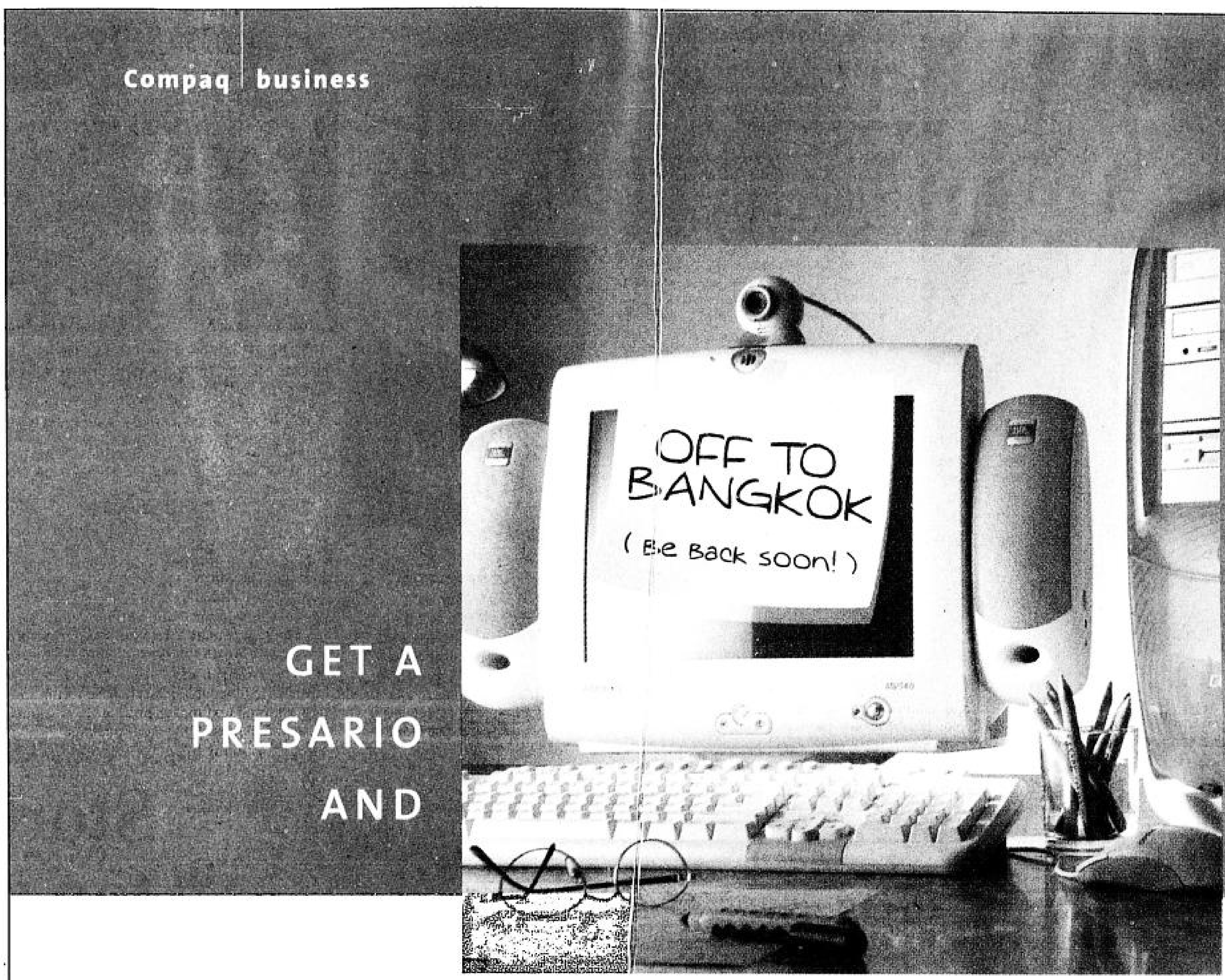

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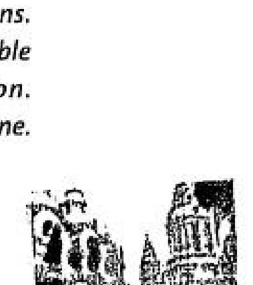

Get a raffle coupon for every purchase of a Compaq Presario Laptop or Desktop from June 15 to July 31, 2001. The trip for 2 to Bangkok is not convertible to cash. Prize and travel taxes and the processing of travel documents will be shouldered by the winner. See leaflets for other details.

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ERNEST and Julio Gallo remains a family-owned winery with three generations of Gallos involved in all aspects of its operations.

THE TURNING leaf collection from E & J Gallo is made from grapes harvested from vineyards in California's coastal regions.

PACIFIC Estates focuses on high quality wine in every price category

HUNTINGTON'S North Coast Chardonnay combines skilled winemaking and elegant packaging at a reasonable price.

California wine makers look for local distributors

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

GEORGE Ruffner, US Commercial Counselor at the US Embassy, Manila, drinks to the success of the country's first virtual wine tasting event.

THE PHILIPPINE economy may have been in turmoil but Filipinos definitely saw a lot of reasons to drink wine.

Figures from the US Commercial Service in Manila showed that wine exports to the Philippines have increased more than 80 percent over the last two years, and that 21 percent of Philippine wine imports are American.

The market for wines continues to grow and American wine makers saw this as an opportunity to introduce more types of wine to the local market.

In a "virtual wine tasting" video conference held last week, officials from Huntington Wine Cellars of Napa, Pacific Estates in Petaluma, both of Napa , E.J. Gallo of Sonoma and Mercury International of Inglewood introduced some of their wines to the local business community.

E.J. Gallo has already established its presence in the Philippines but the other three wine companies are seeking possible partnerships, agents and distributors in the local market, presenting a business opportunity for local entrepreneurs.

Huntington

Huntington Wine Cellars combines the time-honored traditions of wine making. It produces various varieties and blends of wine in small quantities, while at the same time, providing the careful attention to detail involved in producing classic estate bottled wines.

Huntington wines are produced from small lots of premium varietal grapes from some of the best vineyard sites in Northern California. It produces Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and Zinfandel.

THE BANDIERA 1999 Cabernet Sauvignon is a blend from select vineyards and 10 percent Merlot from the Napa Valley vineyard.

PROPERITY Merlot from Santa Barbara is a classic coastal Merlot featuring ripe plum and cherry flavors.

William Leigon, owner and president of Huntington, showcased three types of wine—2000 Napa valley Sauvignon Blanc, 1999 North Coast Chardonnay and the 1998 North Coast Merlot

Pacific Estates

Pacific Estates has been shipping California wine worldwide over the past 11 years. Its wines are made from select coastal and valley vineyards from California's finest growing regions.

From the Sonoma Valley to the Central Coast, from Monterey to the Sierra Foothills, Pacific Estates exports the great wines of the Pacific west coast to the world.

It blends its wines with the international market in mind.

Its wines are currently sold in Germany, England, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland and Japan.

Dennis Yeast, owner and president of Pacific Estates, discussed the merits of the 2000 Chardonnay Chenin, 1999 Zinfandel and the 1999 Cabernet Ruby Cabernet.

Mercury International

Mercury International represents the Baniera Winery (Sonoma), Firestone Vineyards (Santa Barbara) and Prosperity Wines (Los Robles).

It was formed in 1992 as a transportation company to perform pick-up and delivery services for domestic and international freight forwarders for wine.

The US Departments of Agriculture and Trade and the California Departments of Trade and Agriculture have recongized Mercury as a leader in the export of California wines into Mexico.

Mercury has warehouses in Napa Valley, Los Angeles and Mexico City, and is ready to expand into new markets—Argentina, Brazil and Asia—to spread the fame of California boutique wines.

Mercury introduced the Firestone 1999 Reisling, Properity 1998 Merlot and Bandiera 1999 Cabernet Sauvignon.

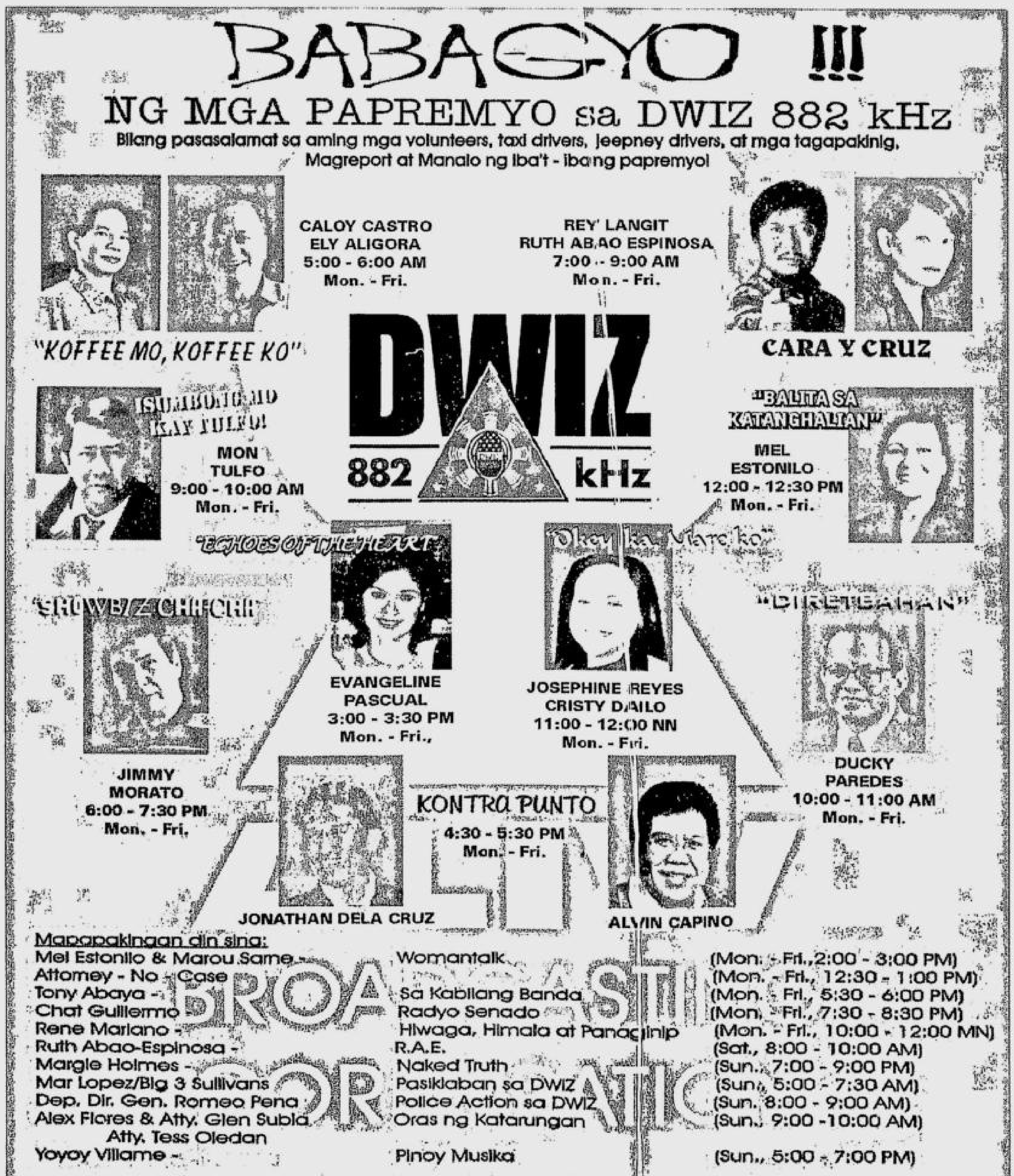
Ernest and Julio Gallo

Descendants of wine growers from Italy's Piedmont region, Ernest and Julio Gallo Winery was founded in 1993. They shared a common vision that California wines of the highest quality, bearing their name will be enjoyed throughout the world.

Its Healdsburg Winery, located in the Dry Creek, is one of Sonoma's oldest operating wineries, having been established in 1885.

Today, Gallo remains a family-owned winery with three generations of Gallos involved in all aspects of its operation. In 1996, the San Francisco Fair International Wine competition named E&J Gallo, Winemaker of the Year.

Julian Chow, marketing manager for Asia Pacific for E&J, discussed the merits of the 1998 Turning Leaf Cabernet Sauvignon and the 1996 Sonoma Cabernet Sauvignon.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MEL ESTONILO
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Mon. - Fri.

"ECHOES OF THE HEART"
EVANGELINE PASCUAL
3:00 - 3:30 PM
Mon. - Fri.,

"Okey ka Mare ko"
JOSEPHINE REYES
CRISTY DAILO
11:00 - 12:00 NN
Mon. - Fri.

"SHOWBIZ CHIKCHIK"
JIMMY MORATO
6:00 - 7:30 PM
Mon. - Fri.

"DIRETSAHAN"
DUCKY PAREDES
10:00 - 11:00 AM
Mon. - Fri.

KONTRA PUNTO
4:30 - 5:30 PM
Mon. - Fri.
JONATHAN DELA CRUZ
ALVIN CAPINO

Mapapakinggan din sina:

Mel Estonilo & Marou Same -	Womantalk	(Mon. - Fri., 2:00 - 3:00 PM)
Attorney - No - Case		(Mon. - Fri., 12:30 - 1:00 PM)
Tony Abaya -	Sa Kabilang Banda	(Mon. - Fri., 5:30 - 6:00 PM)
Chat Guillermo	Radyo Senado	(Mon. - Fri., 7:30 - 8:30 PM)
Rene Mariano -	Hiwaga, Himala at Panaginip	(Mon. - Fri., 10:00 - 12:00 MN)
Ruth Abao-Espinosa -	R.A.E.	(Sat., 8:00 - 10:00 AM)
Margie Holmes -	Naked Truth	(Sun., 7:00 - 9:00 PM)
Mar Lopez/Big 3 Sullivans	Pasiklaban sa DWIZ	(Sun., 5:00 - 7:30 AM)
Dep. Dir. Gen. Romeo Pena	Police Action sa DWIZ	(Sun., 8:00 - 9:00 AM)
Alex Flores & Atty. Glen Subia Atty. Tess Oledan	Oras ng Katarungan	(Sun., 9:00 - 10:00 AM)
Yoyoy Villame -	Pinoy Musika	(Sun., 5:00 - 7:00 PM)

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Store honors top guarantors

THE SUCCESS of any organization depends largely on the people who run it. Robinsons Department Store (RDS) and Robinsons Supermarket (RSC) owe it not only to its hardworking staff but also to its in-house credit card guarantors.

In recognition of their valuable help, RDS and RSC management recently held a dinner-awards night at the Manila Galleria Suites in honor of its Outstanding Store Guarantors for the period of 1999-2000. They were Cecille Talusan, Lydia Malvar, Lourdes Castro, Presida Herrera, Carmen Bravo, Virginia Recto, Merlita Capistrano, Wilma Labitoria, Salvacion Cefe, Edelina Avellaneda, Purchase Plus Corporation, Evangeline Tiantes, Estella Ramos, Amelita Garcia, Evelyn Amores, Remedios Taguibao, Jesusa Sarao, Inardo Allorde, Fely Embrador, Resella Vivas, Imelda Rivera, Seresa Alfonso, Ana Liza Martinez, Asuncion Palad, Amalia Caras, and Judith Uy. Their plaques of recognition were handed out by AVP for information systems Thelma Roxas, AVP for operations Mark Tansiongkun, VP-controller Tess Vasay, FVP for procurement Esper Yu and RSC GM/FVP Ronnie Ong.

The major awards, namely the Platinum and Hall of Fame CREST (Credit Sales Topnotcher) Awards were given to Elena Sevilla and Marlyn Ortiz, respectively. RDS VP-treasury Rhodora Dakanay handed out the Platinum Crest, while RDS SVP Robina Gokongwei-Pe handed out the Crest Hall of Fame.

Prior to the awarding ceremonies, the guests were feted to dinner and entertainment numbers from the country's premiere vocal group, The Company. Robinsons Supermarket AVP-business development Johnson Go then led the slide show presentation featuring the humble beginnings and eventual success of RDS and RSC. Prizes were likewise raffled off.

ROBINA Gokongwei-Pe, Robinson's SVP with Marilyn M. Ortiz, Hall of Fame awardee.

Also present during the event were RDS AVP-merchandising Hope G. Tang, RSC AVP-purchasing Faith G. Ong, credit services manager Florence Lombos, credit marketing manager Norman Causing, marketing services manager Patis Cruz, RSC visual merchandising manager Mallet Ibay and the stores' treasury officers and managers.

RDS, which opened its first store in Robinsons Ermita in 1980, will add four more stores to its roster this year. It recently opened RDS Gen. Trias in Cavite and is slated to unveil its branches in Robinsons Place Novaliches, Pasig, Iloilo and Pampanga.

Credit card . . .

(From page C5)

efits, but more importantly, the recognition you deserve—on and off the road," concluded Bernas.

Move up to Gold today and receive P1,400 worth of Shell fuel for free—that's as much as two full tanks! This offer is valid for approved applicants from June 4 until August 15, 2001. Call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila, 234-9999 in Metro Cebu and 1-800-10-995-9999 in other provinces for details.

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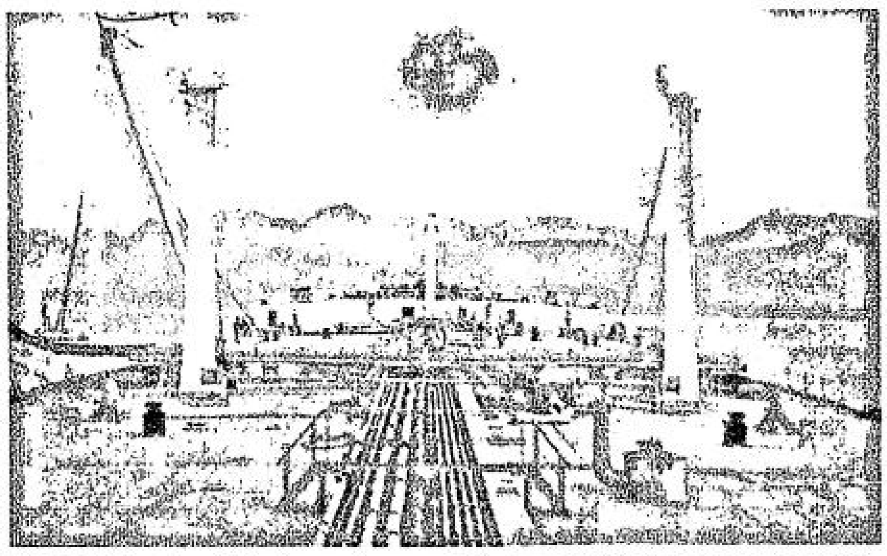
Geneva accord to provide better lives for seafarers



THE WAGE rates of Filipino seafarers exhibited no significant change since 1992.

GENEVA—The 29th session of the Joint Maritime Commission announced a major agreement known as the "Geneva Accord," which is designed to improve safety and working conditions in the maritime industry.

It also agreed to update the International Labor Organization (ILO) minimum wage for seafarers from $435 to $450 with effect from Jan. 1, 2002 and to $465 as of Jan. 1, 2003.

The ILO minimum wage takes into consideration a formula that reflects changes in consumer prices and exchange rates against the US dollar in 48 maritime countries and areas. The JMC is the only, and the oldest, permanent standing sectoral body of the ILO.

Participants to the session, including representatives of ship owners and seafarers, resolved that "the emergence of the global labor market for seafarers has effectively transformed the shipping industry into the world's first genuinely global industry, which requires a global response with a body of global standards applicable to the whole industry."

The meeting last January agreed that the existing ILO maritime instruments should be consolidated and brought up-to-date by means of a new, single "framework convention" on maritime labor standards.

The meeting recommended an institutional basis for a review of all aspects of shipping, and expressed its concern that the qualification of a ship as substandard has so far been based only on the requirements established by the International Maritime Organization.

It requested that all necessary measures be taken to ensure that applicable social and labor standards were also given due consideration in this context.

The agreement represents a major departure in ILO standard-setting practice. With a view to ensuring acceptable standards of working and living conditions for seafarers of all nationalities and in all merchant fleets, the approach envisages a more logical and flexible structure for maritime labor instruments and a more streamlined process for keeping them up-to-date.

ILO director general Juan Somavia applauded the work of the Commission as "an excellent example of international social dialogue in practice," pointing out that the new integrated approach to standards provided an opportunity to take different interests into account, while remaining faithful to the Organization's values.

At the close of the meeting, representatives of the International Shipping Federation (ISF) and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), on behalf of ship owners and seafarers said, "The Geneva Accord is the first important step on a difficult road toward ensuring that our uniquely international industry has in place an effective body of globally applied labor standards. We are proud to be the torchbearers for the ILO's campaign to promote decent work the world over."

The JMC called on the ILO Governing Body to authorize a program of tripartite meetings (ship owners, seafarers and governments) to prepare for an ILO Maritime Conference in 2005 to adopt the anticipated new "framework convention."

The Commission also expressed deep concern about recent arrests of seafarers, in particular ship captains, following maritime accidents, even before any investigation had taken place and called on the ILO director general to bring these concerns to the attention of all ILO member states.

Seafarers' pay in decline

According to a background report prepared for the meeting, the minimum wage previously recommended by the ILO was set under the Seafarers' Wages, Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Recommendation, 1996 (No. 187).

In absolute terms, average wage rates for able seafarers declined between 1992 and 1999, the report says. Seafarers from developed countries were particularly hard hit.

In Australia, for example, able seafarers average monthly earnings declined by 65 percent over the seven-year period, compared with 53 percent for Japanese and German seafarers, 51 percent for Belgians, 43 percent for Danish, 49 percent for Dutch, 26 percent for Portuguese and 14 percent for French.

By contrast, the report noted that wage rates for Brazilian, Bulgarian, Filipino, Indonesian, Latvian and Russian seafarers exhibited no significant change in absolute terms.

Salaries for seafarers from Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma), China, Hong Kong (China), India and Poland actually increased between 25 and 91 percent (in absolute terms).

Some other nationalities have seen significant wage increases since the early 1990s, although they are still below the average for all nationalities.

The application of Recommendation No. 187 is not mandatory unless a government chooses to make it so through legislation. It is nevertheless used by ship owners and trade unions in setting wage scales.

The mechanism is the only one in the ILO for setting the basic monthly wage for any industry.

Today, some 50,000 ships are engaged in international trade, some two-thirds of these are dry cargo ships, about a fifth tankers and the remainder ferries, passenger ships and supply boats working in the offshore sector.

World trade continues to increase and most cargo generated by this trade is carried by sea.

Over the past decade, the number of ships in the world fleet has increased by 10 percent and its tonnage by 35 percent, and this trend is expected to continue.

In addition, there have been major changes in financing, ownership and management of ships as well as in the labor market for seafarers.

Some 1.25 million seafarers are employed on board ships, of which one-third are officers. This figure excludes catering and hotel staff working on passenger ships, and other categories of workers such as those on small coastal and fishing vessels. The maritime workforce, like the shipping industry itself, is international.

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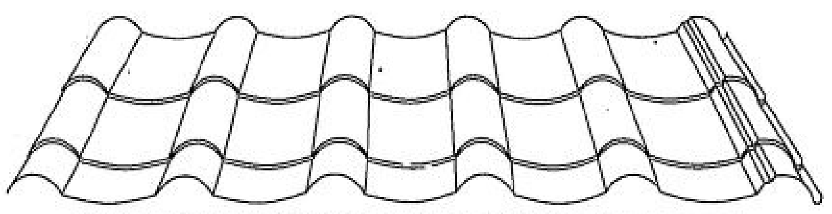

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN REGISTRATION NO. 3-1998-00583

The Public is hereby notified that on June 15, 2001 the Regional Trial Court of Makati, Branch 56 has issued an Order in Civil Case No. 01-308 entitled "Chuayuco Steel Manufacturing Corporation vs. Union Galvasteel Corporation (formerly Bacnotan Steel Corporation)", the dispositive portion of which reads:

"WHEREFORE, premises considered, the Court hereby GRANTS the writ of premilinary injunction prayed for, and accordingly orders the defendant, its officers, employees, agents or representatives, or assigns to refrain and desist from further using the designs of the plaintiffs on roofing sheets or galvanized iron sheets and related products, and from employing said designs or any colorable imitation thereof in any manner in its business operations."

Pursuant to said Order a writ of premilinary injunction has been issued against defendant in the above-captioned case which was duly served on June 25, 2001.

In said Order, the Court has initially found that Union Galvasteel Corporation's "DURATILE" roofing sheet is confusingly similar with the "TILESTAR" roofing sheets exclusively manufactured by Chuayuco Steel Manufacturing Corporation.

The public is hereby warned that any person or entity who shall use without authority, or imitate, the design of "TILESTAR" roofing sheets of Chuayuco Steel Manufacturing Corporation shall be dealt with to the fullest extent of the law.

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BUSINESS*Monday*

Meralco has new president

FRANCISCO

THE MANILA Electric Co. yesterday announced new appointments in its top management effective July 1, 2001.

The Meralco board of directors, in its meeting on June 25, approved the appointment of Meralco president Manuel M. Lopez as chairman and chief executive officer, chairman Felipe B. Alfonso as vice chairman, and executive vice president Jesus P. Francisco as president and chief operating officer.

Other changes include the appointment of Roberto Almazora as chief information officer and Ruben B. Benosa as head of customer service office.

Aside from Lopez and Alfonso, other members of the Meralco 11-man board are Carlos G. Dominguez, Octavio Victor R. Espiritu Jr.; Monico V. Jacob, Federico R. Lopez, Christian S. Monsod, Victoriano R. Reinoso, Washington Z. Sycip, Margarito B. Teves and the new president, Jesus P. Francisco.

Francisco, 58, joined Meralco in 1971. He obtained his mechanical and electrical engineering degrees from the University of Philippines; and master's degree in business management from the Asian Institute of Management.

He is also director of various corporations including Batangas Cogen Corp., First Private Power Corp., Corporate Information Solutions Inc.; e-Meralco Ventures Inc.; GE Philippines Meter and Instrument Co. Inc.; Iberpacific Inc.; Meralco Energy Inc.; Meralco Industrial Engineering Service Corp., Philippine Commercial Capital Inc.; and Rockwell Land Corp.

MOVEMENTS

Joaquin Cunanan & Co. appoints new chair

THE PARTNERS and principals of Joaquin Cunanan & Co., a member firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers announce the appointment of Jerry S. Isla as chairman and senior partner effective July 1, 2001.

Isla replaces Corazon S. de la Paz who is retiring at the end of June. As chairman and senior partner for 20 years of Joaquin Cunanan & Co., she steered the firm to become one of the country's leading professional services firms.

Isla, who is currently vice chairman and deputy senior partner, joined Joaquin Cunanan & Co. in 1969. From 1976 to 1977, he was on exchange with Price Waterhouse Philadelphia. He was admitted to the partnership in 1980 and from 1986 to 1988, he represented Joaquin Cunanan & Co. to the Price Waterhouse Council of Partners. He was appointed managing partner for the assurance and business advisory services practice in 1997. He is also lead partner of the technology, information, communications and entertainment industry practice.

Navarro is new RCBC chair

FORMER Trade Secretary Rizalino S. Navarro was elected chairman of the board and executive committee of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. after the bank's annual stockholders' meeting Monday, June 25, at the RCBC Plaza.

Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco, who re-assumed the chairmanship of RCBC in 1998 after his three-year tour of duty as Philippine envoy to Japan, remains as director of RCBC and chair of the Yuchengco Group of Companies, which is comprised by four flagship companies—RCBC, Malayan Group of Insurance Companies, Great Pacific Life and House of Investments. He has expressed his desire to "take things a little more easy."

Alfonso S. Yuchengco III stays as executive vice chairman and chief executive officer, Cesar E.A. Virata as corporate vice chairman and vice chair of the executive committee, and Valentin A. Araneta as president and chief operating officer.

New IBM country manager

VICTOR Silvino is the new country manager for the combined IBM and Lotus Software Group for IBM Philippines. He is now responsible for managing the industry's comprehensive e-business infrastructure software solutions and professional services portfolio consisting of four major brands, namely Lotus, Websphere, DB2 and Tivoli.

A 14-year veteran in the IT industry, Victor's professional experience spans technical training, sales and distribution, product management, channels and alliances management, systems integration, market analysis and conceptualization, marketing communications and strategic planning.

Victor is no complete stranger to IBM. At 29, he became one of the youngest top executives in the local IT industry by becoming managing director of Lotus Software (Philippines) Inc., an IBM Philippines subsidiary, from 1997 to 2001. As geography head, he was responsible for leading and managing Lotus' sales and professional services teams, building strategic alliances with industry partners as well as maximizing market opportunities.

Dynamic team of Marco Polo

THE MARCO Polo, Davao (MPD) recently named three top management heads to join a dynamic team of competent executives. To join the team are: Richard M. Cajucom, front office manager, Monina Lasala, human resources manager and Art Boncato Jr., director of sales and marketing.

Cajucom started from the ranks at the Mandarin Oriental and was part of the opening and pre-opening of world-renowned properties like the Shangri-La Hotel Manila, New World Renaissance Hotel and The Heritage Hotel Manila.

His extensive background in the field of front office management has earned him a diploma in front office operations from Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines (HRAP). As the newly appointed front office manager of the Marco Polo, Cajucom shall oversee operations of the front office department and will handle a team that aims to exceed guest expectations through personalized service.

Another proud addition to the Marco Polo is Monina Lasala, who was recently promoted to human resources manager from the position of training manager. Before joining the Marco Polo, Davao, Lasala held vital positions as human resources development officer of Davao Union Cement and as training officer of the Phinma Group of Companies in Makati City.

New Philweb director

THE PHILWEB.COM Inc. board of directors yesterday announced the election of Wong Kian Lee as director.

Currently, the vice president for corporate strategy and business development of Softbank Investment International (Strategic), Wong will represent Softbank's interest in Philweb.com.

Prior to joining Softbank, Wong was a senior executive of Hongkong.com Corp. and Chinadotcom Corp.

A graduate with a law degree at Cambridge University, Wong was previously connected with the international law firm of Clifford Chance.

He replaced retired director Sheridan Tatsuno in the Philweb.com board. Tatsuno, however, will remain as technology adviser of the Internet firm.

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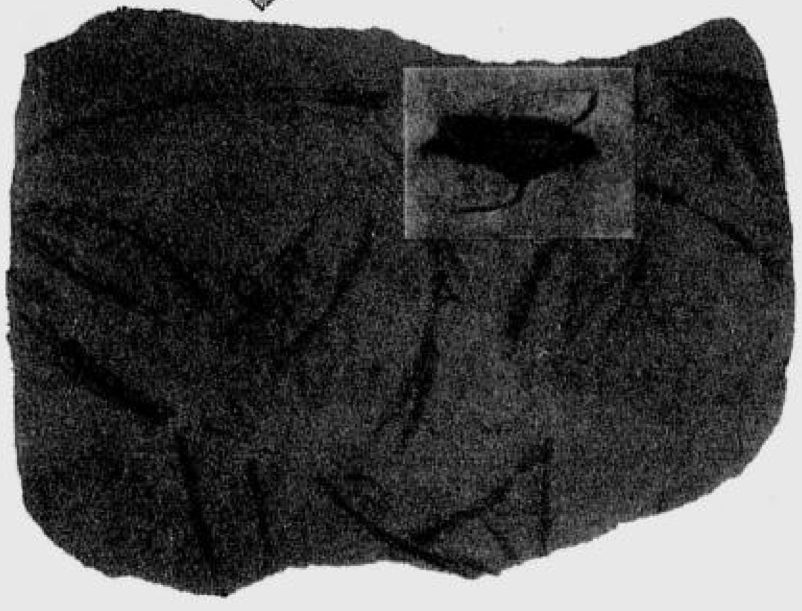
UNTITLED, oil on paper

The abstracted calm of Gonzalo Martin-Calero

By Marge C. Enriquez

"WHAT art offers is space—a certain breathing room for the spirit," wrote John Updike.

This is the impression one gets upon seeing Gonzalo Martin-Calero's sketches, collages and paintings that are on view at the Luz Gallery and Metropolitan Museum.

At 45, the artist has three books, composed of the different media, which represent the didactics of his work.

A European art critic compares Martin-Calero to Van Gogh. Both their minds hold a gallery of impressions as rich as their artworks. Memories of the spirit's attributes are reflected in their landscapes.

"Martin-Calero introduces us to the spirit's haven where we find the strength that generates our passions and our feelings," wrote Francesco Miralles.

The first thing that grabs attention is the reverberation of colors. The yellows, reds, blues and greens in various intensities, textures and combinations capture the ambience of the Castillan countryside. The skies, times of day, seasons, fields, rivers and roads are distilled into their essences, interpreted through disciplined lines in sketches and controlled shapes in collages.

Calmness

It took him 30 years to master abstractions that evoke the feeling of calmness. He studied architecture and later abandoned it to focus on painting. However, his training gave him a solid foundation in classical drawing and sculpture.

"Painting to art is like the body's skeleton, and the skeleton of painting is drawing. From this, painting gets its order of things, its harmony," explained Martin-Calero in Spanish in an interview translated by Guillermo Gomez-Rivera.

His transition from figurative painting to pure abstraction was gradual. However, he

THE ABSTRACTED/ p.D4

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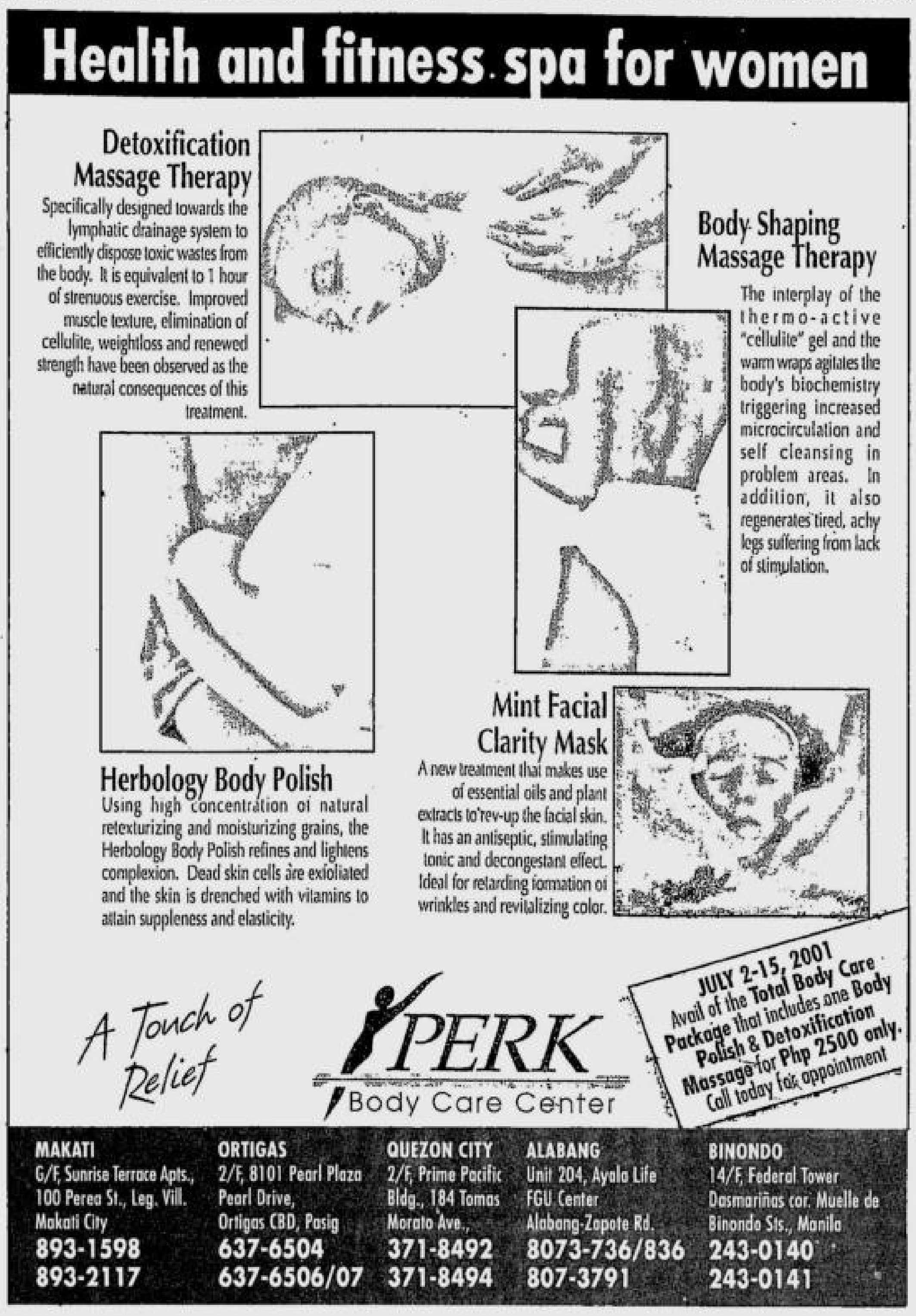
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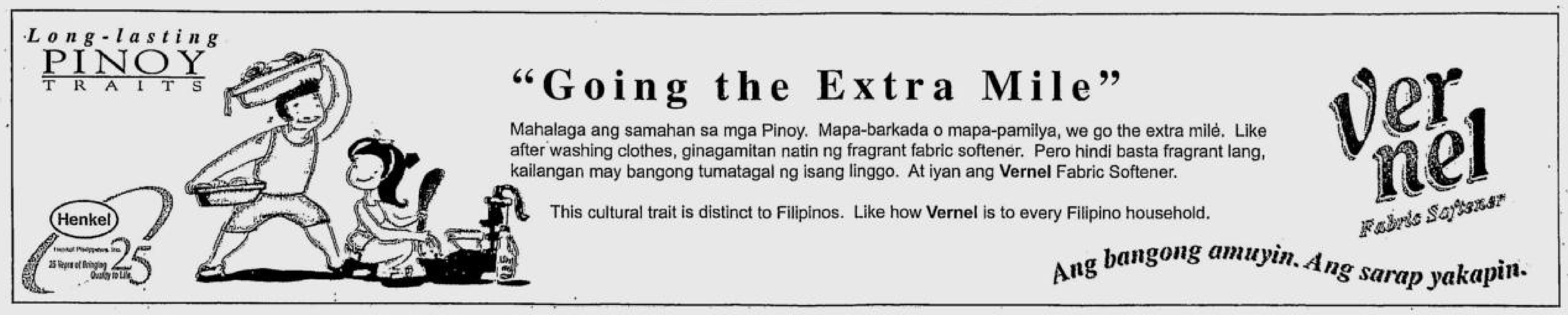
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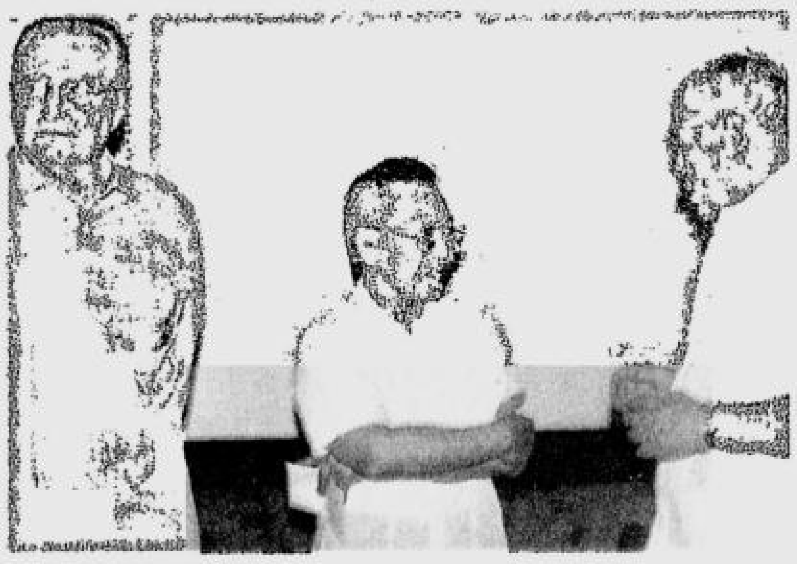
JUSTO Ortiz, Fr. Jose Arcilla and Toto Igual

AMBASSADOR Domingo Siazon, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, Msgr. Antonio Franco and Ambassador Theo Arnold of the Netherlands

AMBASSADORS Miguel Perez Rubio, Juan Rocha and Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

TONY Rufino and Mita Rufino

PERUVIAN Ambassador Julio Cardenas Velarde

Italian National Day celebration and tribute to Antonio Molina

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

THE ITALIANS celebrated their National Day with new Ambassador and Mme. **Umberto Colesanti** and lots of pasta and *gelato* (you had a choice of pistachio, tiramisu, mocha, chocolate and vanilla; some people had all four!). There was also a whole grilled lamb that was exquisitely tender dominating the buffet. A whole contingent of Italian nuns and priests chattered away in Italian while **Markland Blaiklock**, now of the Pen, bewailed the hostage situation that has recurred for the second straight year and put a damper on the tourism industry. Must be our obsession to commit national suicide.

Among the guests were Instituto Cervantes' new director **Javier Galvan**, Netherlands Ambassador **Theo Arnold** and the elegant **Kessara**, the very competent and in control Israeli Ambassador **Irit Ben Abba**, charming Danish Ambassador **Peter Rosting**, **Beth Day Romulo** exchanging pleasantries with Turkish Ambassador **Ilka Veka** who was one of five woman ambassadors representing their countries that include pretty and chic **Milena Ramirez** of Venezuela. According to Señor Galvan, Spain hasn't reached that level of equal opportunity for women yet but **Arantxa Bañon**, Spanish charge d'affaires, may well be the first Iberian ambassador!

* * *

Cebu's indefatigable **Ingrid Santamaria** introduced her Peace Philharmonic of the Philippines orchestra at a presscon at the Ayala Heritage Library with a glimpse of the program (**Nolyn Cabahug** and **Rachelle Gerodias** singing excerpts from "Noli Me Tangere" and "Walang Sugat") for the centenary of the Philippine Judiciary at the CCP last June 11. A proud Ingrid also announced that her fledgling orchestra had been requested by no less than Malacañang to play at the traditional *vin de honneur* on Independence Day. A singular honor indeed.

* * *

Talk about gutsy. **Sylvie Rodriguez**, wife of former European Ambassador **Candido Rodriguez**, on a visit to her daughter and son-in-law in Batangas, went scuba diving at Tubbataha Reef in Palawan despite all kinds of travel advisories to the contrary. There she was at the Trompette de Versailles premier at San Agustin Church animatedly looking forward to her adventures.

Part of the celebration of the "French Spring in Manila," trumpeters **Serge Rougegrez** and **Alain Fontes** together with organist **George Bessonnet** impressed music lovers with their interpretation of French Baroque music, which used to be played in front of the Sun King at Versailles. Pity that no one in Malacañang appears interested in cultural events that might prove a pleasant respite for them from all the present stress.

* * *

Heritage Library is turning out to be a popular venue for small intimate gatherings such as Fundacion Santiago Dia de la Latinidad. Director **Chaco Molina** organized a lunch with Spanish Ambassador **Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja** and former Ambassadors to Spain **Isabel Wilson** and **Johnny Rocha**, Javier Galvan of the Instituto Cervantes, among others, in attendance. It was a special occasion in honor of Don **Antonio Molina** who recently passed away in Spain. Molina was a writer, educator, historian, translator and legal mind. He was mentor to generations of historians, writers and lawyers at the University of Santo Tomas. Before his death, he was the well loved Filipino consul general in Madrid. Aside from an audiovisual presentation of Dr. Molina's contribution to the cause of Filipino-Spanish relations and Fr. **Jose Arcilla** of Ateneo's tribute, the finest moment was surely Dr. Molina's recorded rendition of Rizal's "Mi Ultimo Adios," particularly moving with scenic Philippine landscapes as backdrop.

ITALIAN Ambassador and Mme. Umberto Colesanti

AMBASSADOR Enrique Syquia and Dr. Vicente Rosales

CHACO Molina and Jose Picornell

TESSIE Luz and Sylvie Rodriguez

LETTY Syquia

EVIE Costa, Mme. Anatoli Khmelnitski of Russia and Mme. Kessara Arnold of the Netherlands

FREDDIE Borromeo

INGRID Santamaria

RUSSIAN Ambassador Anatoli Khmelnitski

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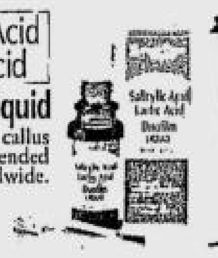

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STIEFEL
Research in Dermatology

The right brew in Hebrew

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Betoy Johnson

HOW does one write "I do" in Hebrew? The same way Jesus Christ probably would had he gotten married almost 2,000 years ago. The Hebrew script can be read today by most Israelis with little difficulty since it remains basically unchanged even before the Dead Sea Scrolls were written 70 years after Jesus died.

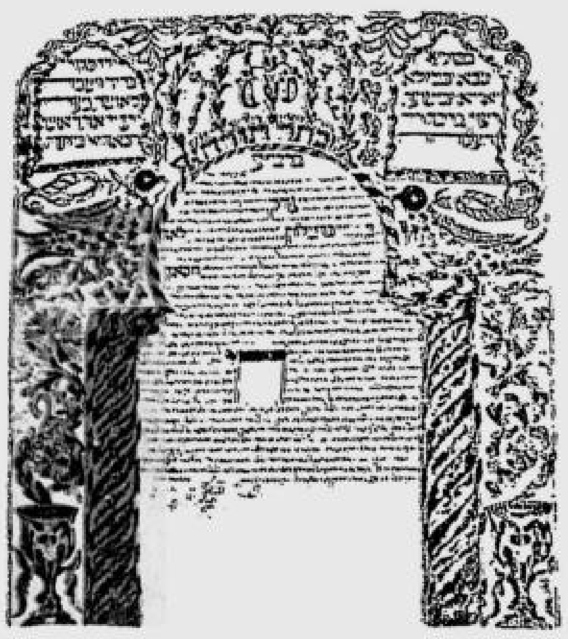
The Ketubbah or marriage contract, for instance, contains the same words since God knows when. But salient differences can be discerned in the way each is presented.

The Embassy of Israel has assembled at least six versions of the Ketubbah—from Iran to Italy to India—and other noteworthy examples of Jewish manuscripts and ceremonial objects over the centuries in the form of enlarged color photographs and reproductions.

Billed as "The Art of Hebrew Script," the display can be seen at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila until July 13. Call the Met at 523-7855 or 521-1517. From Manila, the pieces will be on display for several weeks in Cebu before they're shipped to Madrid. The traveling collection was previously seen in Taiwan.

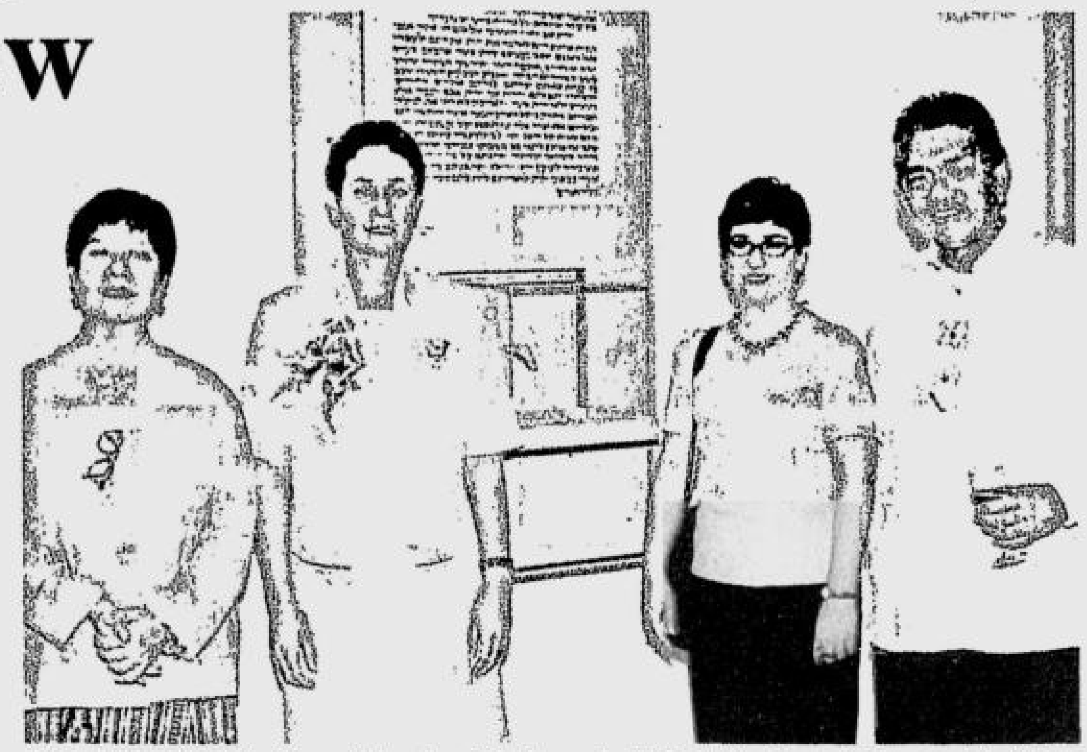
"All of the materials on exhibit are part of the collection of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem,"

THE RIGHT/ p.D5

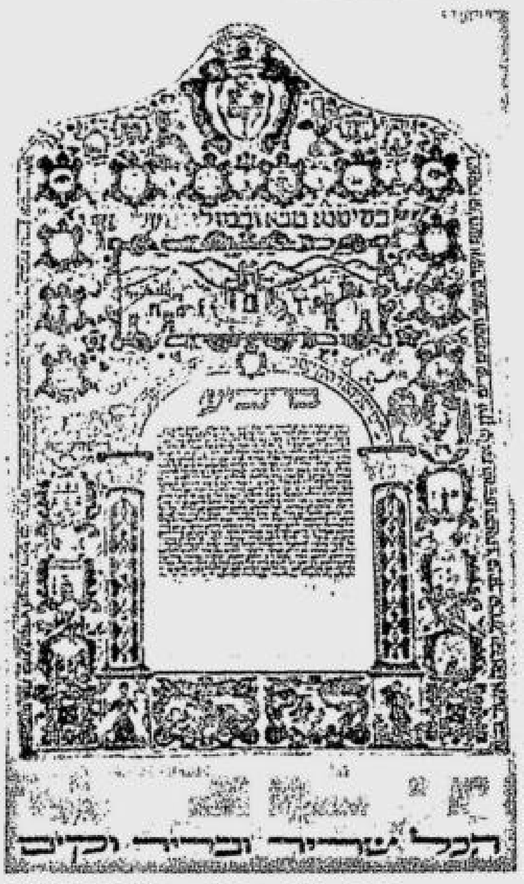


KETUBBAH from Tetouan, Morocco, 1868

Flavor and nostalgia survive in Hebrew scripts that are redolent of history



MET Museum president Cora Alvina, Israeli Ambassador Irit Ben-Aba, Second Secretary Hagit Ben-Yaakov and Marcelo Marquez, president of the Philippine-Israel Business Association Inc.



KETUBBAH from Padua, Italy, 1732

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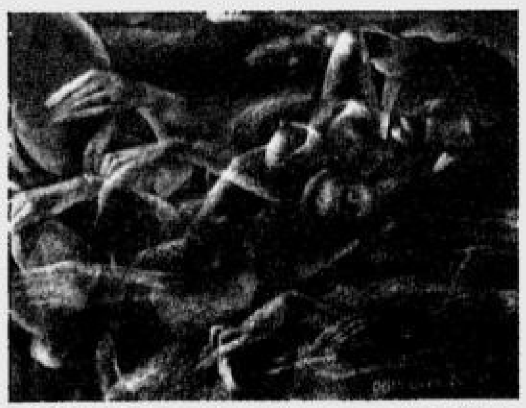
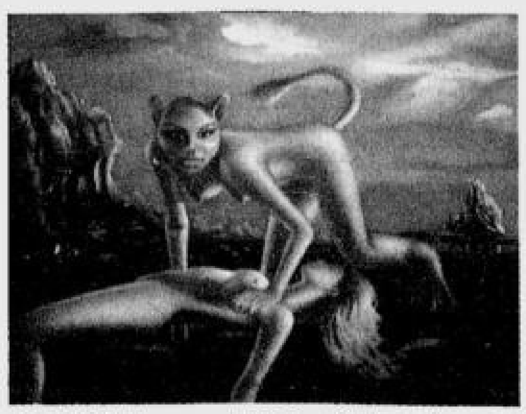


DONADA Gallery is holding an auction of this work (pastel on felt paper) by the late master Onib Olmedo. Call Jam, Ed or Mitch at 400-0731, 522-1977 or (0917) 916-0321.



GALERIE Y presents Walter Kielmann's paintings in "Light and Harmony," on the 4/F of SM Megamall A, until July 12. Above is "Cat Woman."

Emma Navarro's erotic drapes at Enterprise Center; '70s and '80s art at Lopez Museum

EMMA V. Navarro mounts her first one-woman exhibit dubbed "Of Woman and Drapes," at the Big and Small Art Co., The Enterprise Center, Makati. The exhibit is on July 5-28. It features her fascination with changing the complexion of the painting with the deft use of composition, color and texture.

VISUAL ARTS

A graduate of fine arts, major in advertising, of the University of Santo Tomas, Emma drew her inspiration from her collection of drapes, depicting them in soft, smooth, free-flowing form, charged with eroticism.

EMMA Y. Navarro's "Of Woman and Drapes" at The Enterprise Center

WASHINGTON-BASED PINOY ARTIST. For the past two decades, Nilo Santiago has worked as an artist in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area—as a creative designer, a commercial printer and a painter in various media. Nilo was born in Manila and earned a degree in fine arts from the University of Santo Tomas. He attended graduate school at Howard University. He has also worked on pen-and-ink drawings, as well as on oils and acrylic on paper, incorporating his impressions of his childhood in the Philippines. He is a winner of numerous awards in national competitions in the United States and his art has been exhibited at the Folger Shakespeare Museum in Washington, the Marriott Inner Harbor in Baltimore and at the Air Force Art Collection. He has shown his works in over 90 solo and group exhibitions around the US and has published his paintings and illustrations. Unicef and Amnesty International have printed his Christmas card designs.

In celebration of the Declaration of Philippine Independence, the Philippine Festival in Wash-

EMMA/ p.D5

The abstracted calm of Gonzalo Martin-Calero

(From page D1)

maintained the discipline of figurative art as his framework.

When he held his first exhibit in 1972, Martin-Calero was still grappling for his definitive style. His works, mostly realistic representations, were filled with clichés in shading, use of space and belabored impressions of landscapes, flowers and spaces. Yet, critics noted that his signature style—the striking use of pure colors—was beginning to emerge.

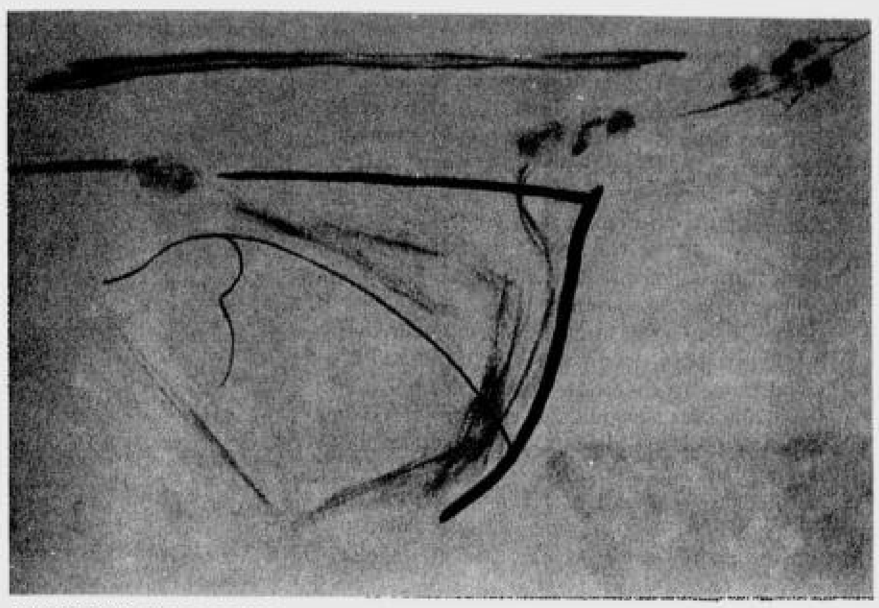
In his second period, from 1985 to 1989, Martin-Calero evolved into pure abstraction—as in focusing on black and white and organic shapes. In his third phase, critics noticed the Oriental quality of his art. Waterways and mountains are reduced into a few essential lines. The sun and sky are transparent shapes in collages.

"Painters have always had the magic to create the world anew. Because of this, painters can give of a new vision of the world that would not be perceived by the ordinary people," he said.

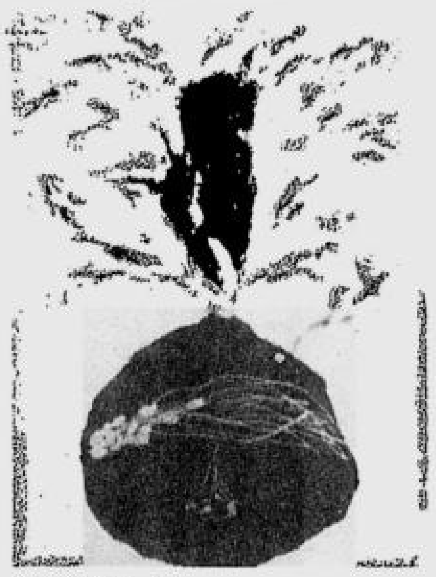
Untitled

His three books, which are available at the two galleries, contain new works. His works are mostly untitled because the paintings represent various feelings and qualities of the spirit. "I don't know how to title the paintings because, for me, each work is an emotion. It is difficult to precisely name it. A work is born from an emotion without definition."

When he paints, he says he tries to be in a state of well being. The colors and shapes come instinctively. He adds, "Intuition is only born out of a lot of work and discipline."



UNTITLED, oil on canvas



UNTITLED, oil on canvas

Asked how he would his explain his abstractions to the uninitiated, Martin-Calero waxed philosophical, "What is essential is that a drawing must be a drawing. Its derivation is not really important. What is basic is that drawing there is one line, another line and a space, a tension here and there until the viewer experiences a visual pleasure, an elegance and a new world in that drawing. The painting has a discipline, a sense of space and play of line and color, but it doesn't always literally say if it is figurative or abstract. It has a figurative structure, but its color tends to make you think it's abstract."

To whom is he trying to communicate his ideas?

"Everybody—although there are people who cannot be reached because they are simply unresponsive," he replied.

"Art has a certain magic that cannot be explained to the ordinary layman."

"Verdad (Truth)" is on view at the Met until July 28. Martin-Calero's other works are on view at the Luz Gallery until July 12.

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The right brew in Hebrew

(From page D3)

says Hagit Ben-Yaakov, second secretary of the Embassy of Israel. "We want to show the world the original [collection], but it costs so much to insure and ship each piece."

Of course, the Ketubbah drew various reactions from the guests during opening night. Ruth Kurzbayer, a vice consul of the US embassy, recalls the time she exchanged "I dos" with her husband in Jewish rites a few decades ago in Washington, D.C.

Fateful Ketubbah

"I haven't seen one (Ketubbah) for quite some time," says the Jewish American. She and her then future husband were barely able to read the document, and simply relied on the rabbi to read it for them. Kurzbayer couldn't help but smile as she examined several versions of the very same contract that sealed her fate.

Although they were written similarly, each Ketubbah was done in a different material and adorned with artwork that somehow mirrors the time and culture of the place it was issued. The one from Padua, Italy (1732), for instance, was illustrated on parchment using tempera, gold powder, pen and ink. Above the text surrounded by vignettes of Italian life is a drawing of a city with pointed buildings and looming mountains behind it.

The Iranian version (Isfahan, 1898) was done on paper using watercolor, pen and ink. Unlike the Ketubbah from Italy and the Netherlands, the one from Iran is less elaborate. It has distinct Persian touches such as suns, lions and peacocks reminiscent of the country's famous carpets.

Jews in Muslim Iran? Yes, Iran, as well as other Arab countries such as Morocco and Egypt, had considerable Jewish communities long before Muslims and Jews became embroiled in the Middle East conflict.

KETUBBAH from Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 1617

KETUBBAH from Isfahan, Iran, 1858

Tropical twist

A Ketubbah from Singapore (1880), an island-nation and former British colony, is decidedly English with a tropical twist. A pair of fish adorns the parchment, proof perhaps that progressive Singapore was once no more than a fishing village and rundown British port.

Other items of note include pictures of the Torah Scroll, passages from the Passover and Purim. Jews of yore also share something in common with superstitious Filipinos: a belief in the power of amulets. Hebrew amulets containing incantations are sometimes intended to heal the sick, protect travelers, or bring good fortune and success.

The Mezuzah is still by far the most powerful symbol with Biblical basis. It connotes the connection between God and the people of Israel, says Ben-Yaakov. The Mezuzah is said to have saved Israelites from the 10th plague that struck Egypt during Moses' time. God's "Angel of Death" killed the firstborn of every Egyptian family, but miraculously spared the houses of Israelites, thanks to a sign on their doors written with the blood of slaughtered sheep.

"Through the centuries," Ben-Yaakov adds, "it has become a tradition to put a Mezuzah on the door of a Jewish home to protect the family." Unfortunately, their enemies later used the very sign that was supposed to protect the Jews to identify and persecute them.

Of course, we all know the fate that befell six millions Jews under Nazi hands during the Holocaust years. If anything, this collection also proves the courage and resilience of Yahweh's chosen people after the Diaspora.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Emma Navarro's erotic drapes . . .

(From page D4)

ington, through the sponsorship of the Philippine Arts, Letter and Media Council, the Philippine embassy exhibited Nilo's selected works that reflect his Filipino roots. Nilo's works will be exhibited in Manila in November.

BARBA AT GALLERY FIVE. Andre Barba mounts his fourth one-man show, "Lines and Curves II," on July 7 at the Gallery Five, 5/L JS Gaisano Citimall V. Ilustre Street, Davao City.

UY AT THE CCP. Clairelynn Uy presents her oil paintings in her one-woman exhibit dubbed "Uncanny," on July 5, 6 p.m., at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Pasilyo Victorio Edades. It runs until Sept. 10. Call 832-3702.

NUESTRO AT THE DRAWING ROOM. Bob Bernardo Nuestro mounts a one-man show of recent works on paper at The Drawing Room, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Metrostar Building, Makati City. Dubbed "Floating," Nuestro continues his preoccupation with paperworks that are characterized by a sense of lightness and spontaneity, almost Zen-like in feeling. Call 897-7877/6990.

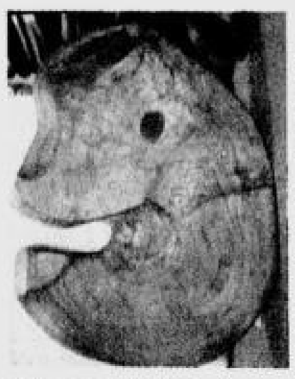
MONTILLA AT THE SSS. Ricky Montilla will hold "Realistic Impressions" at a new art center at the Social Security System's headquarters on East Avenue, QC on July 6-20.

AT THE LOPEZ MUSEUM. "Refresh: the '70s and '80s," the newest exhibit at the Lopez Memorial Museum (G/F, Benpres Building, Meralco Avenue corner Exchange Road, Pasig City), seeks to re-examine the artistic temperature of the era. The exhibit makes use of selected pieces from the museum's collection by Vicente Manansala, Galo Ocampo, Ang Kiukok, J Elizalde Navarro, Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Bencab, Danny Dalena and Onib Olmedo. Call 631-2417.

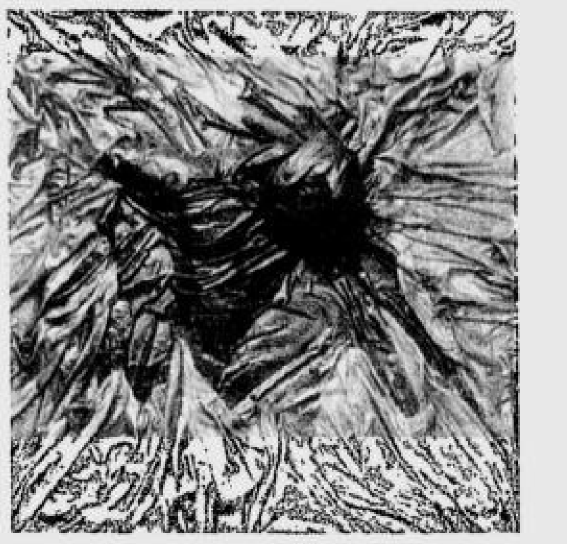
PASIG ARTISTS AT THE PASIG MUSEUM. The Pasig City Cultural Affairs and Tourism Council presents "Tagpuan: Pagyabong ng Sining sa Pasig," an exhibit of the works of three generations of Pasig artists at the Pasig City Museum, starting July 3. This is in connection with Araw ng Pasig 2001.

ART COMPETITION. Likhang Kamay 2001 is an Arts and Craft National Competition open to all hobbyists, enthusiasts and students. It's main purpose is to hone the talents of Filipinos across the country in the field of cross-stitch, friendship bracelet making, paper embroidery and crochet. Call 641-2401 to -10 or 641-2462 to -70. Deadline for submission of entries is on Oct.15.

WORKSHOP. The Center for Arts Foundation Inc. announces its registration for a free voice and acting workshops. Courses include Acting/Theater Arts and Voice Lessons. Classes will start on Aug. 4. Visit the Center for Arts office at 11 Dama de Noche St., New Manila, QC or call 727-8347/8975.



PABLO Mahinay holds an exhibit of major sculptures in wood dubbed "Organic Forms" at the Drawing Room Gallery, G/F Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City, until July 18. Call 897-7877/6990.



JASPER DE LEON AT WEST GALLERY

Jasper de Leon explores human figures in "Struggles" at the West Gallery of SM Megamall. On view from July 5-17, the oil and resin on canvas works delve into the human body's myriad proportions, challenging in the process set conventions. Call 634-1284. Above is "Cross."

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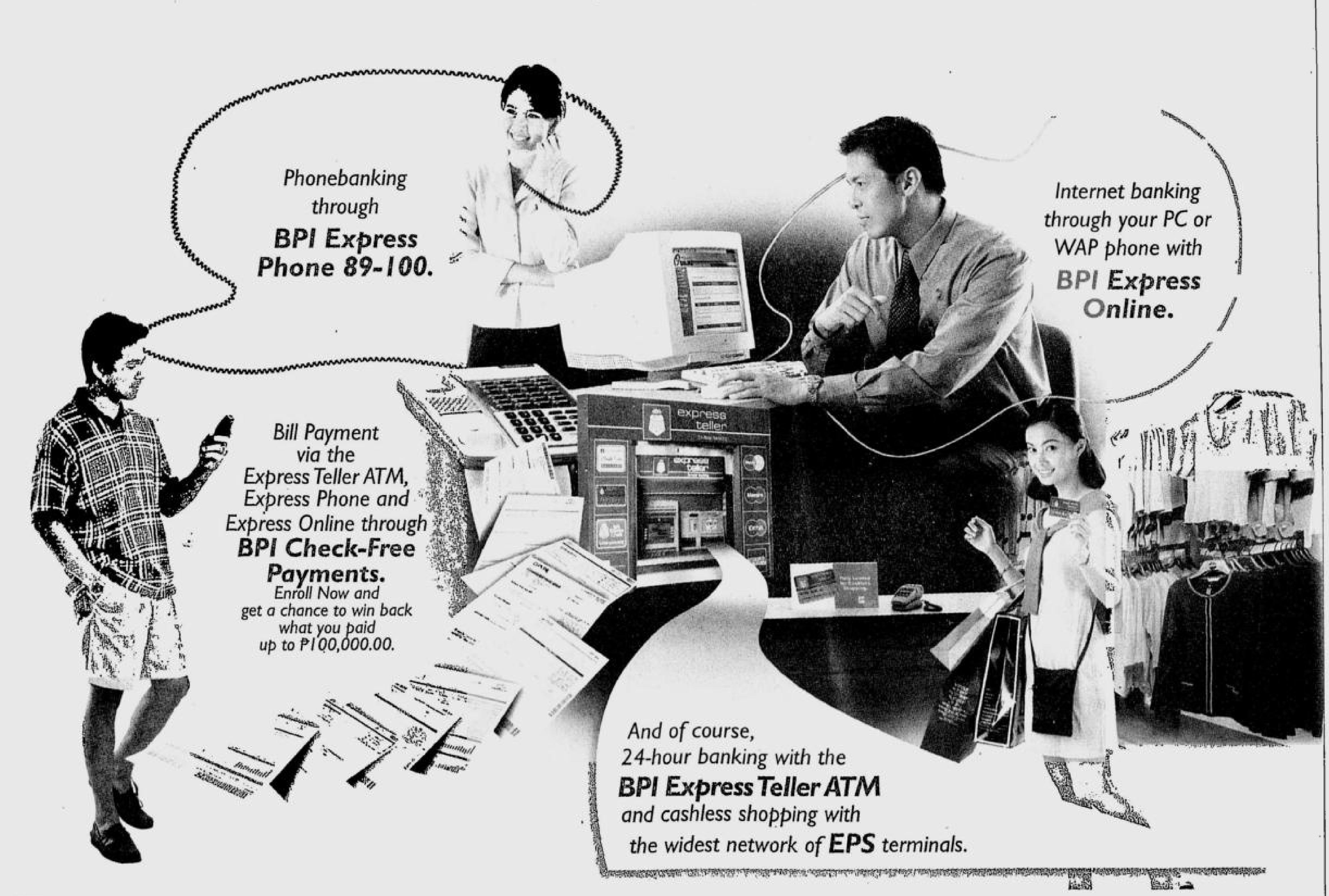

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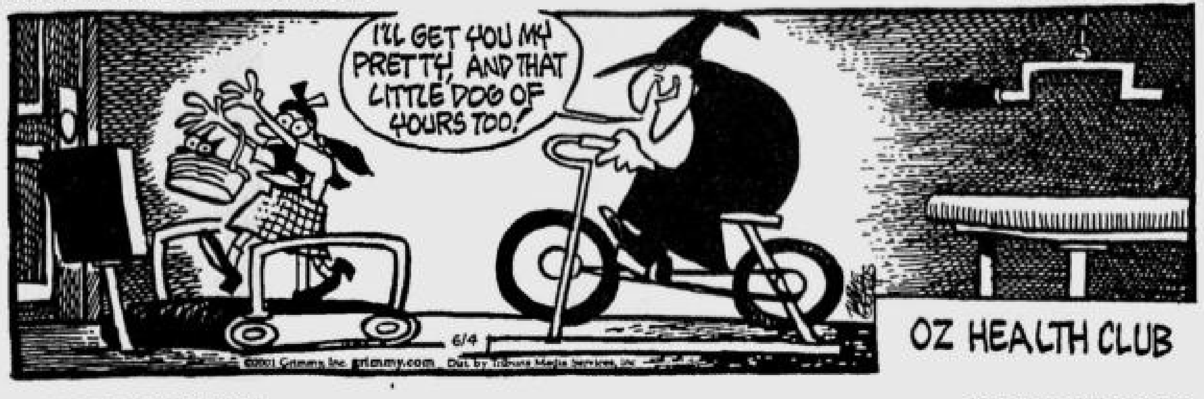
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


I'LL GET YOU MY PRETTY, AND THAT LITTLE DOG OF YOURS TOO!
OZ HEALTH CLUB
6/4
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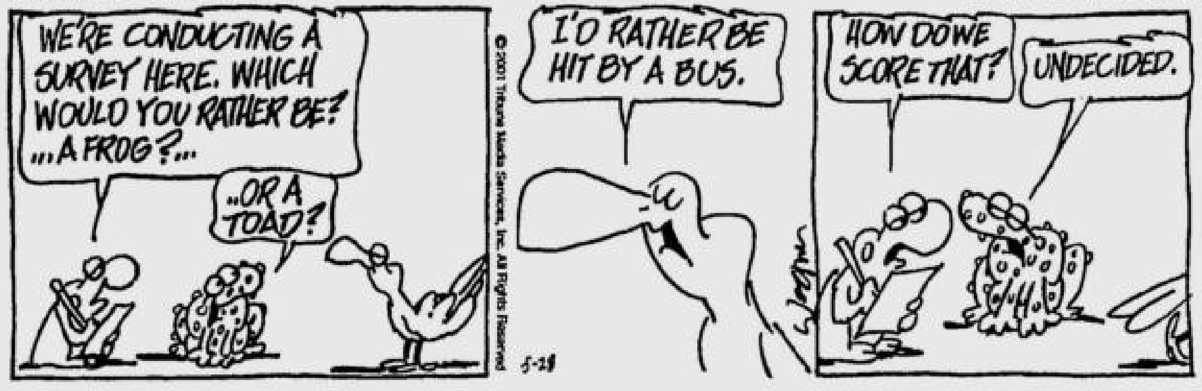
ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


WE'RE CONDUCTING A SURVEY HERE. WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER BE? ...A FROG?...
..OR A TOAD?
I'D RATHER BE HIT BY A BUS.
HOW DO WE SCORE THAT?
UNDECIDED.
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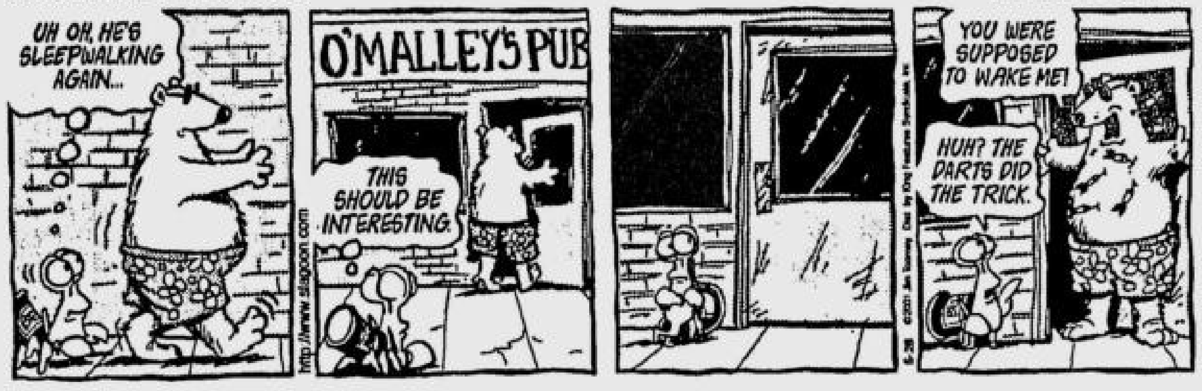
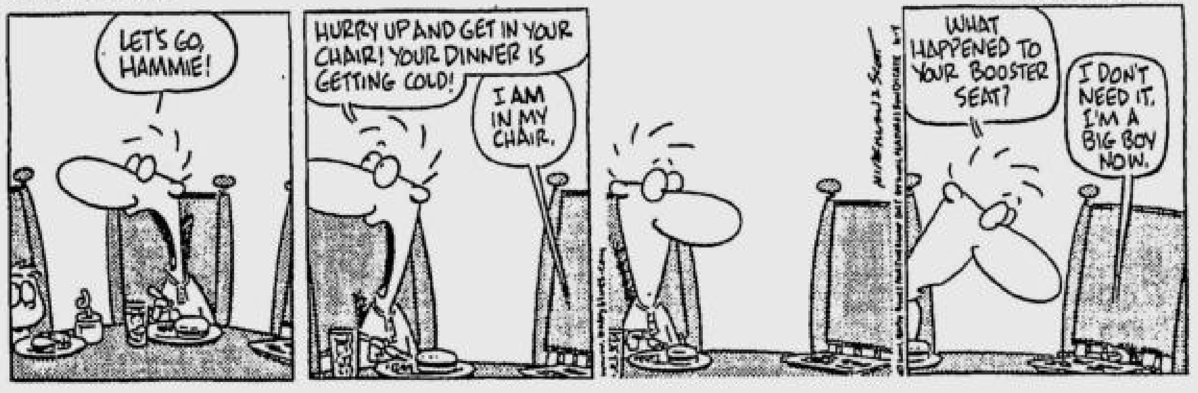
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


UH OH, HE'S SLEEPWALKING AGAIN...
O'MALLEY'S PUB
THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING.
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO WAKE ME!
HUH? THE DARTS DID THE TRICK.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


LET'S GO, HAMMIE!
HURRY UP AND GET IN YOUR CHAIR! YOUR DINNER IS GETTING COLD!
I AM IN MY CHAIR.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR BOOSTER SEAT?
I DON'T NEED IT. I'M A BIG BOY NOW.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Polly Holliday, Richard Petty, Imelda Marcos, David Parsons, Ron Silver, Jerry Hall

Happy Birthday: It's time to resurrect some of those great ideas you have. Your sensitive, open and caring nature will heighten your popularity this year. You will have the energy to muster up extra time to give to those who need your help. Your selfless acts will bring you rewards and great satisfaction just knowing that you have made others happy. Your numbers: 15, 27, 31, 36, 43, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't try to do too much. You will get rundown and fatigued if you don't pace yourself. You may have problems with older relatives who will cause a bit of a burden for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will have a great time if you spend it alone with the one you love. You need to be loving in order to have closeness. Plan a quiet evening for two.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be sure to abide by the rules and regulations, regardless of what you are doing. Lack of life preservers while boating or not wearing your seat belt could turn into trouble.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you get down and party with friends today, you will have the time of your life. You need to interact with people you find stimulating and knowledgeable. You will be able to tempt someone who interests you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will have a problem with family members. Don't give in just to keep the peace. If you don't agree with their actions, stand up for your rights.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will have a great time with friends if you get out and do things together. You need a good laugh and some reassurance. Lately you've been taking on too many responsibilities, and you need a break.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Help relatives sort out personal papers. Rewards for past good deeds are likely. Implement your ideas at work to improve on efficiency.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may want to plan a nice getaway for you and your family. You've been unpredictable and grouchy, and this would be a good way to make up for your mood swings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be indecisive regarding your beliefs and attitudes. Don't let someone you work with make you look bad. You need to be careful not to reveal information that could work against you. Be careful if you have to do a lot of driving around.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You need to feel as if you belong. Get involved in something you believe in. Your ability to help others will be well-received. Your heart is in the right place.

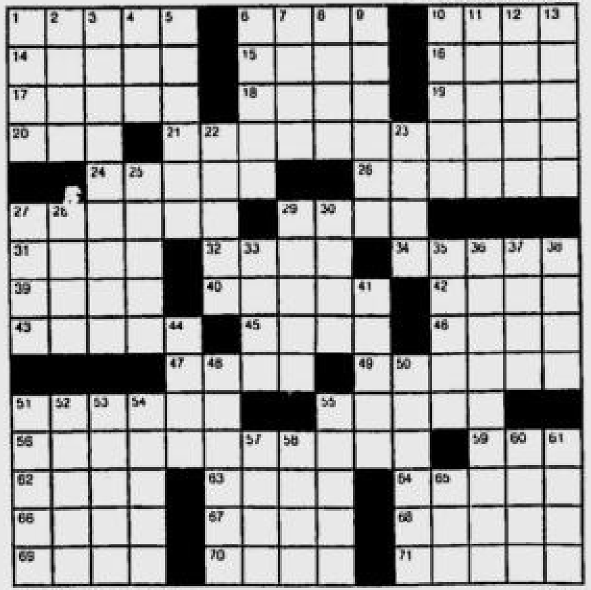
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can bet that you'll anger someone you work with if you show him or her up with a display of your abilities. Don't worry about others. You have to look out for yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be eager to hit the road. You are long overdue for a vacation, and the time is right to take flight. You can meet new friends who will broaden your horizons if you're receptive to their advances.

Birthday Baby: You have a streak of adventure. Although you love your home and family, you will also want to wonder off searching for knowledge, excitement and your own space.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA
5/16/01

ACROSS
1 Expenses
6 "Mephisto Waltz" star
10 L times XVI
14 City on the Missouri
15 Outer garment
16 Seed cover
17 Stratum
18 Saintly circle
19 Corporate symbol
20 Javelin's flight path
21 Home galaxy
24 Jackrabbits
26 Defeated side
27 Act divisions
29 Strip for a pageant
31 Dove or Frost
32 Man alone
34 Security devices
39 Plus
40 Devoured
42 Small musical combo
43 Second decade
45 El __, TX
46 Aromatic seasoning
47 So be it!
49 Intermissions
51 Process for sorting injured
55 Cause anxiety
56 Queasy feeling
59 Network of "Frontline"
62 Mined materials
63 Hideaway
64 Koranic maiden of paradise
66 Dub
67 Loafing
68 Pixyish
69 Actress Lanchester
70 Seines
71 Vaults

DOWN
1 Pop
2 Bradley or Sharif
3 Photographer's request
4 Definite article
5 "No Exit" writer
6 Sore points
7 Rich soil
8 Painter Salvador
9 Coral islands
10 John and Tyne
11 "Jerry Maguire" director Cameron
12 Wrapped Havana
13 Satiates
22 "Demian" author
23 First chancellor of reunified Germany
25 Writer Chekhov
27 Squabble
28 Nat or Natalie
29 Beelzebub
30 Historic periods
33 Bandage
35 Different from
36 Weakling
37 Scottish church
38 Weepy gasps
41 Honorable
44 Cooking herb
48 King Arthur's magician
50 Skin eruptions
51 Rib-eye cousin
52 Bucolic
53 Newspaper pieces
54 All confused
55 Buenos __
57 Lose luster
58 Light, happy tune
60 Runny cheese
61 Moral misjudgments
65 Pay attachment?

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

D	I	P	S	■	B	L	A	S	T	■	F	A	L	A
A	L	A	N	■	L	O	R	C	A	■	U	P	O	N
L	E	S	E	■	A	D	L	A	I	■	T	E	S	T
E	X	T	E	N	S	I	O	N	C	O	U	R	S	E
■	■	U	R	I	■	■	■	T	H	U	R	■	■	■
M	A	R	■	E	P	I	C	■	I	D	I	O	M	S
A	N	A	■	C	A	R	E	S	■	■	S	N	E	E
H	I	G	H	E	R	E	D	U	C	A	T	I	O	N
A	L	E	E	■	■	S	A	L	A	D	■	O	W	N
L	E	S	S	E	R	■	R	U	T	H	■	N	S	A
■	■	■	S	L	E	D	■	■	■	O	L	D	■	■
F	I	N	I	S	H	I	N	G	S	C	H	O	O	L
A	S	E	A	■	A	R	O	M	A	■	A	M	M	O
S	T	A	N	■	S	T	R	E	W	■	S	E	N	T
T	O	R	S	■	H	Y	M	N	S	■	A	S	I	S

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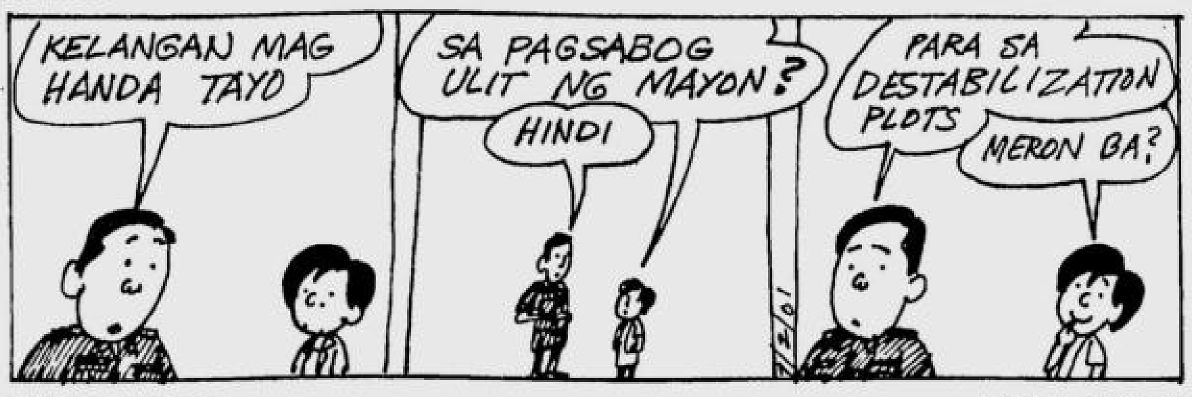
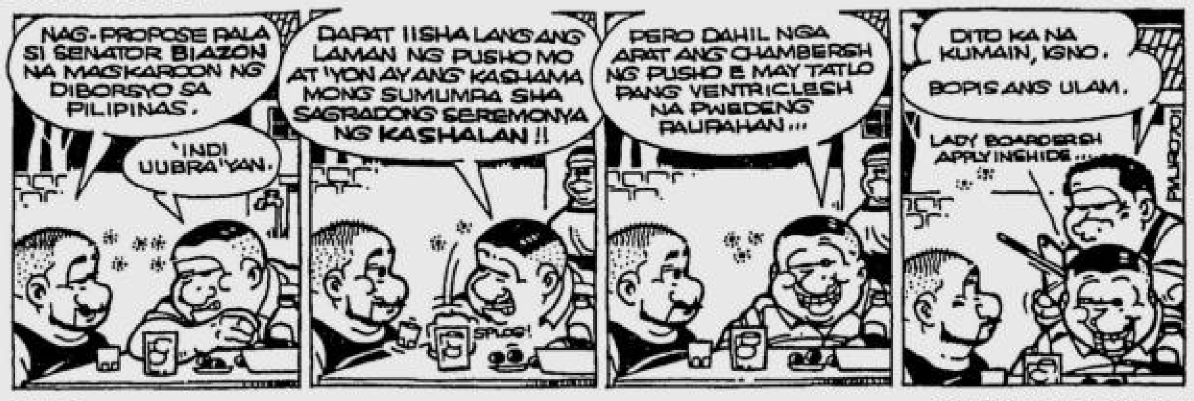
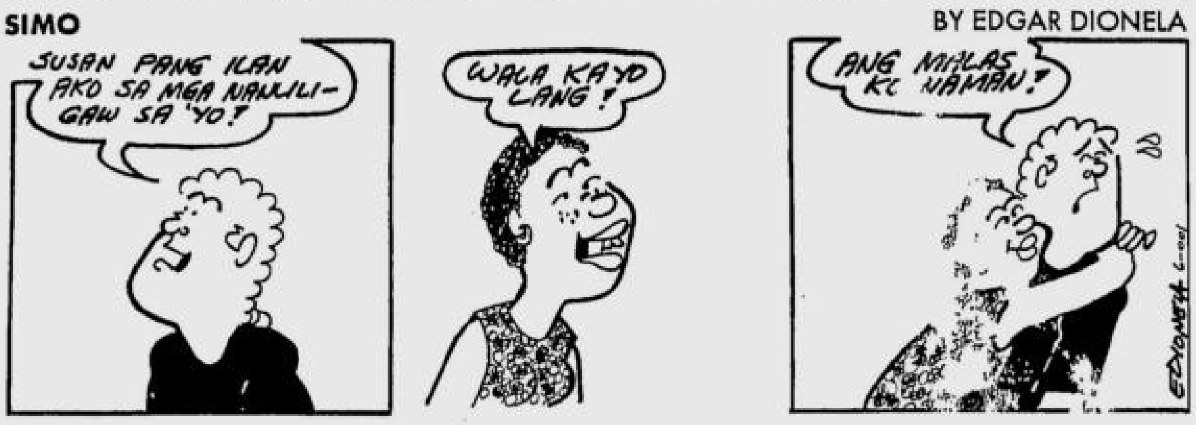
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


KELANGAN MAG HANDA TAYO
SA PAGSABOG ULIT NG MAYON?
HINDI
PARA SA DESTABILIZATION PLOTS
MERON BA?

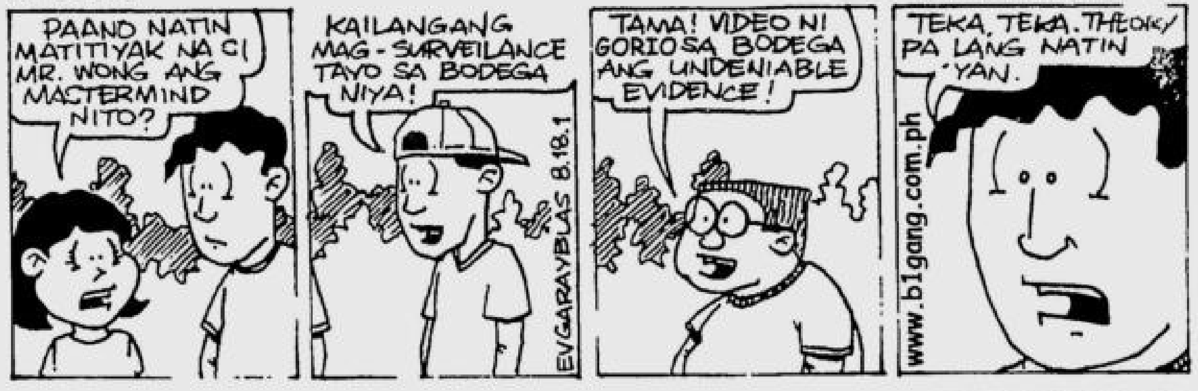
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAG-PROPOSE PALA SI SENATOR BIAZON NA MAGKAROON NG DIBORSYO SA PILIPINAS.
'INDI UUBRA 'YAN.
DAPAT IISHA LANG ANG LAMAN NG PUSHO MO AT 'YON AY ANG KASHAMA MONG SUMUMPA SHA SAGRADONG SEREMONYA NG KASHALAN!!
SPLOG!
PERO DAHIL NGA APAT ANG CHAMBERSH NG PUSHO E MAY TATLO PANG VENTRICLESH NA PWEDENG PAUPAHAN...
DITO KA NA KUMAIN, ISNO.
BOPIS ANG ULAM.
LADY BOARDERSH APPLY INSHIDE...

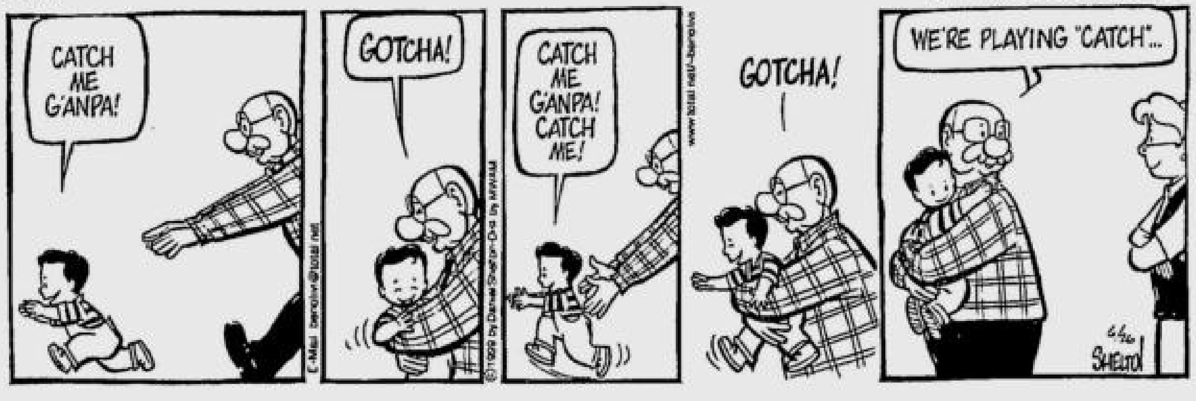
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


SUSAN PANG ILAN AKO SA MGA NANLILIGAW SA 'YO?
WALA KAYO LANG!
ANG MALAS KO NAMAN!

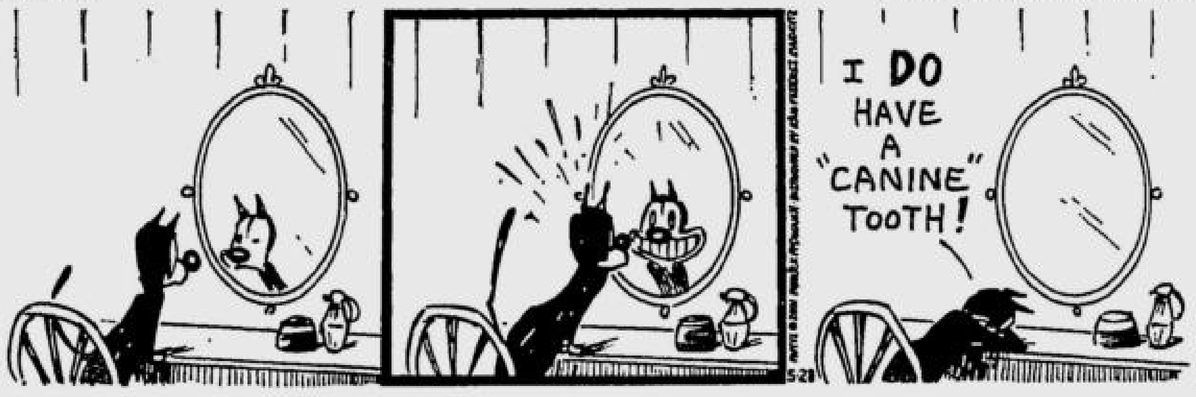
B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ EVG


PAANO NATIN MATITIYAK NA SI MR. WONG ANG MASTERMIND NITO?
KAILANGANG MAG-SURVEILANCE TAYO SA BODEGA NIYA!
EVGARAYBLAS 8.18.1
TAMA! VIDEO NI GORIO SA BODEGA ANG UNDENIABLE EVIDENCE!
TEKA, TEKA. THEORY PA LANG NATIN 'YAN.
www.b1gang.com.ph

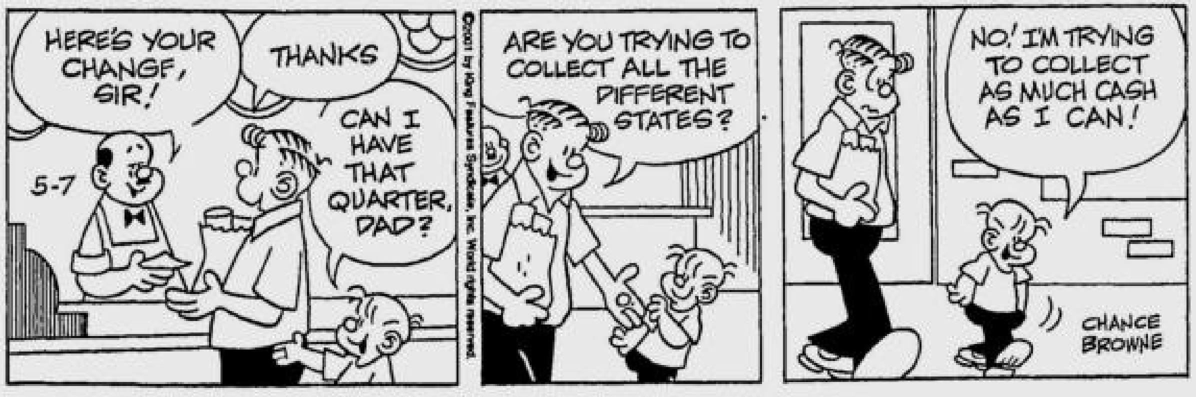
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


CATCH ME G'ANPA!
GOTCHA!
CATCH ME G'ANPA! CATCH ME!
GOTCHA!
WE'RE PLAYING "CATCH"...
SHELTON

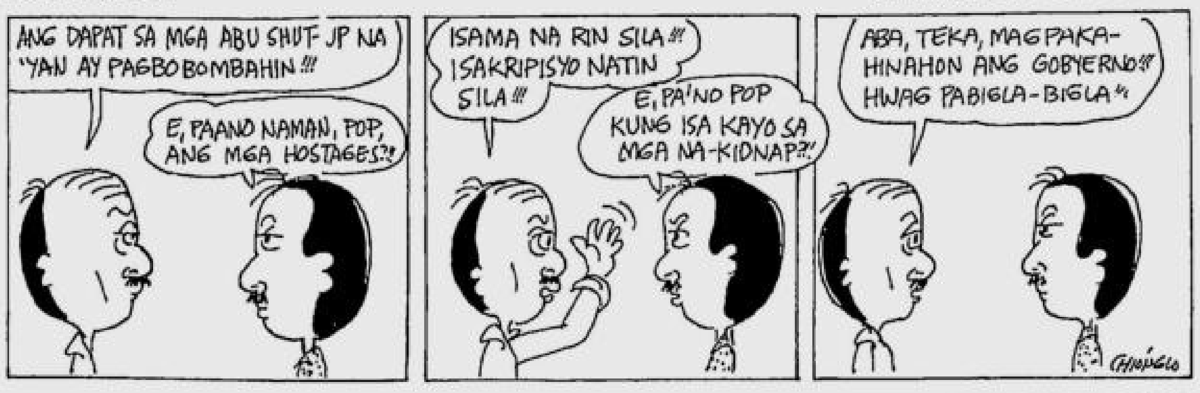
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I DO HAVE A "CANINE" TOOTH!
5-28

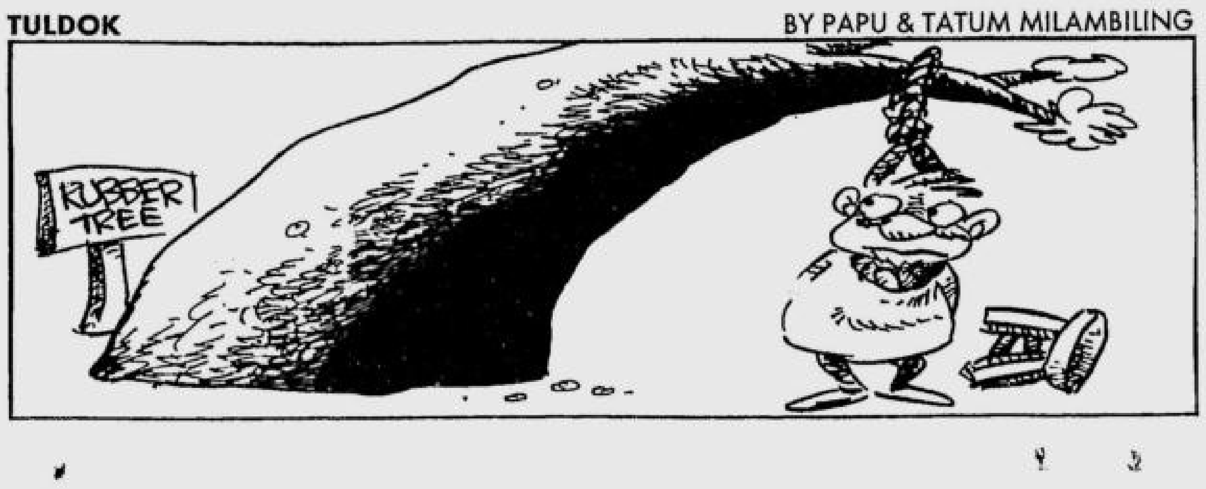
HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


HERE'S YOUR CHANGE, SIR!
THANKS
CAN I HAVE THAT QUARTER, DAD?
5-7
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
ARE YOU TRYING TO COLLECT ALL THE DIFFERENT STATES?
NO! I'M TRYING TO COLLECT AS MUCH CASH AS I CAN!
CHANCE BROWNE

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG DAPAT SA MGA ABU SHUT-UP NA 'YAN AY PAGBOBOMBAHIN!!!
E, PAANO NAMAN, POP, ANG MGA HOSTAGES?!
ISAMA NA RIN SILA!!! ISAKRIPISYO NATIN SILA!!!
E, PA'NO POP KUNG ISA KAYO SA MGA NA-KIDNAP?!
ABA, TEKA, MAGPAKAHINAHON ANG GOBYERNO!! HWAG PABIGLA-BIGLA!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


RUBBER TREE

Portraits of the Filipino by young artists

By Constantino C. Tejero

A REDEFINITION of the centuries-old idea of portraiture, "in the light of contemporary art concepts and the availability of new media technology," was showcased recently at the Bulwagang Juan Luna, the Main Gallery of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, in a group exhibit titled "Surrounded."

The show, curated by Roberto Chabet and Nilo Ilarde, featured the mixed-media works, paintings and installations of a group of young artists who picturesquely call themselves Surrounded by Water.

A brief history of the group could be found at the entrance to the hall: SBW was established in March 1998 in Angono, Rizal, one of the lakeshore towns (thus, SBW) and a cradle of artists. It was an artist-run and -funded space, counting as members young, inexperienced, underexposed artists.

The group's original program of art exhibitions soon expanded to include film screenings, readings, forums, conventions, community-based projects, "to gain wider audience and create contemporary art-making practices."

In June 1999, SBW was closed due to bankruptcy. It was revived only when the owner of a defunct bakeshop at Edsa-Ortigas offered its space for free for a limited time. SBW-Edsa formally opened in October 1999 with simultaneous shows in the main gallery and the kitchen (thus, their art gallery called Alternative Space).

Upkeep problems persist, however. It is facing another foreclosure, but the members are still hopeful it will be revived again in the not-so-distant future.

Thus this show, their first and might be their last in a major venue that was the CCP, could have been a poignant valedictory. But then again it could also have been a salvo. The kids, you see, are defiant.

Desperate world

Those were brave works. They didn't need too much interpretation because most of their meanings were self-evident, anyway. If one didn't get the point, it was because the point was highly personal to the creator.

It was how those young artists executed them and projected their individual visions which was novel. Youthful wit, often to the point of mischief, was pervasive.

Strategically placed facing the door was a shock of image and colors. Michael Muñoz's "The Singleness of Purpose," composed of acrylic on wood, 243 cm x 243 cm, and cement tiles, 228 cm x 228 cm, was a giant solarized image of Popoy Lagman (or it could be Mao) in neon red, yellow and green ablaze on a white wall, and engraving on tiles of earth tones on the floor, spelling out "Power to the working class."

Another shock awaited at the doorway, the moment the visitor entered. It was Victor Balanon's "What Had Become of Molloy?," pen and ink on 27 cm x 36 cm white boards, a comic strip depicting a derelict as he moves from the city to the countryside.

The images and what constituted the story evoked the desperate world of Becket. The series of bleak images was punctuated a few times by the line "What tedium," then it descended into the horrific (cockroaches crawling out of the man's crotch) and was ended by the line "I can't go on, I'll go on."

Among the eye-grabbers in the show was Wire Tuazon's "Portrayal & Speculation," mixed media, a series of vintage photographs (sourced from the Lopez Memorial Museum) of convicts during the American Occupation (or they could be remnants of Aguinaldo's army).

Six white banners hanging on the wall had been painted with giant reproductions of black-and-white photos of these anonymous Filipinos (but for the identification numbers on their uniforms). On the floor illuminated by tiny yellow bulbs were big photographic repros imbedded in locks of hair (keepsake for the beloved?).

There was tension in the private nature of the subject and the size of the portraits—so big they were practically thrust into the viewer's face and screaming to be seen.

Child's paradise

Geraldine Javier's "There Are No Half Moons" was hundreds of unconsecrated hosts stamped with a goatlike icon and pasted on the wall. On a slim table was an album filled with little round paper cutouts stamped with a lamb icon and images from pop culture.

Alvin Villaruel's "Parental Guidance," oil on TV monitors, in brown, gold, blue, black, was mostly blindfolded faces painted on the monitors of old TV sets of varying sizes. There was only one bikini-clad torso that should alert the kiddies to turn their eyes away.

Mariano Ching's mysteriously titled "124456780," oil on canvas, wax, clothes, cement, was a mysterious assemblage of assorted garments, from shorts to sweaters to dusters to trousers, on a wall of slate-blue.

Unremittingly drab, its only blush of color was an image of a European boy in fancy military uniform. Maybe the point was to contrast the pathetic habiliments of ordinary folk and the full regalia of the military outfit?

Christina Dy's "Mission Impossible," oil on canvas and photographs, in brown, black, gray, white, red, was a cinematic series of extreme close-ups of the female body, often in silhouettes, faceless.

Louie Cordero's "Randy Described Eternity," mixed media, was a child's riotous vision of paradise, with doodles, drips and dabs of blue, yellow, fuchsia, green, violet, black, brown.

Three walls were splattered with paste-ups of pages from books, pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, graffiti spelling out "Jester" and "Saturn," images of heli-

PORTRAITS/ p.D8

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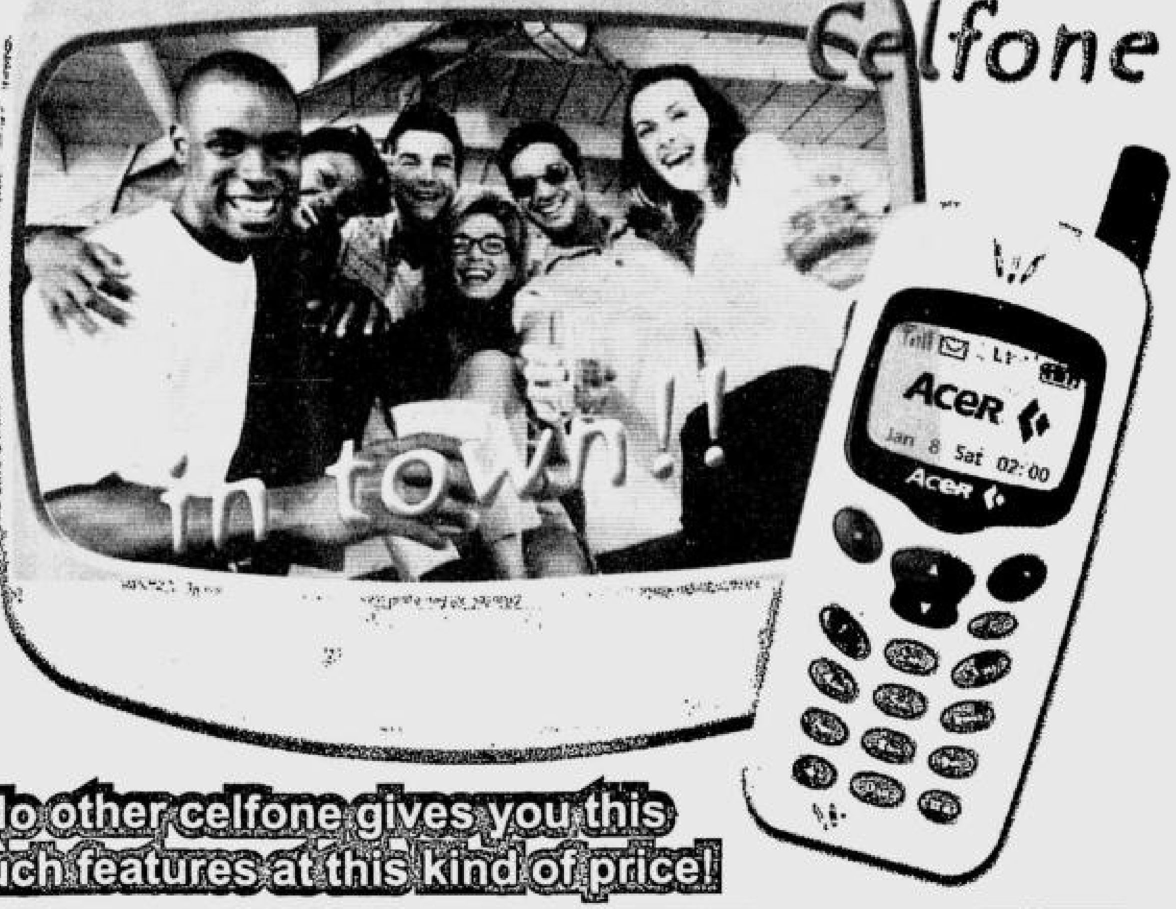

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Lecture marks Olmedo's 5th death anniversary

LECTURER Jeannie Javelosa shows a pastel painting by Onib Olmedo to illlustrate the characteristics of figurative expressionist art.

BIENVENIDO Tan

DADA Zamora

THE LECTURE recently held on the late Onib Olmedo's figurative expressionist paintings drew art aficionados from various sectors. Aptly titled "Art Appreciation without Tears," the lecture served as a layman's guide to Olmedo's art.

The lecture is part of a series of activities planned by the artist's widow, Bettina Olmedo, and her two daughters, Gisella and Francesca Jhoanna, to mark the fifth death anniversary of Onib Olmedo this year.

The event was held at the Aqua Restaurant at the Enterprise Center in Makati City, where two of the majority stockholders are Onib's dearest friends, Marcus and Sandra Gfeller (nee Sandra Fabie, who is more beautiful than ever, being in that interesting, infanticipating stage).

The lecture was delivered by art critic Jeannie Javelosa, who used to write rave reviews about Olmedo's art during his lifetime. Jeannie kept everyone enthralled during the hour-long lecture, what with her intimate knowledge of Olmedo's style, his worldview and artistic vision. Armed with a master's degree in fine arts earned at the University of Pennsylvania, Jeannie has impeccable academic credentials coupled with an artistic background which enabled her to give insights into the meaning and substance of Olmedo's paintings.

She said that Onib's paintings have an ennobling effect, enabling the viewer to perceive the beauty that is hidden in the seamy side of life, as exemplified in the subjects that the artist chose to paint in his lifetime, including prostitutes, vendors and street children in Ermita, the artist's watering hole, and Sampaloc, the place where he was born and raised.

Olmedo was the first Filipino to win an award at the prestigious international art competition in Cagnes-Sur-Mer, France. In the Philippines, Onib was the major figurative expressionist artist of his generation who succeeded in elevating the art consciousness of Filipinos to the level of appreciating art beyond paintings that are merely decorative or ornamental.

Among the art patrons who attended the lecture and dinner: Corporate executives Vivian Yuchengco, board member of the Philippine Stock Exchange; Bienvenivo Tan, an avid collector of Olmedo paintings; Bobby Dy of Ayala Land; Susie Diez Rueda, former vice president of Caltex Phils.; Esther Tan, president of the Sun Life of Canada; entrepreneurs Jose "Bebo" Quiros from the affluent Yulo clan of Canlubang who owns the La Residencia, a high-end subdivision in Sta. Rosa, Laguna; Maribel Ongpin, widow of the late Finance Secretary Jaime Ongpin; Mr. and Ms Jun Villalon, owners of Chromagraph Inc.; and art gallery owners Silvana Diaz of Galeria Duemila and Amy Loste of Gallery Nine.

The other guests were writers Asuncion David Maramba and Vergel Santos, this year's Ninoy Aquino Awardee for Journalism. Onib's brothers and sisters and their spouses who reside in the Philippines were also there in full force: Lito and Carmen Olmedo, Papoose and Tony Olizon, Jack and Yay Olmedo, Patsy and Agnes Olmedo, Cecile Jali-Jali and Chibu Olmedo. Of course, Onib's artist friends were there: Allan and Ivi Cosio and Lino Severino, and his bosom buddy, Manny Arriola.

The lecture-dinner was also a good opportunity for Bettina to get together with her classmates from St. Theresa's College, Manila: Chit Roces, Susie Diez Rueda, Marichie Francisco, Nena Borromeo, Marilen Sidri, Dada Moreno, Bebe Lontok and Susan Macuja.

The emcees during this special event were Gisella Olmedo of Asiania Philippines and her fiancé Rey Araneta of Lufthansa. The opening prayer was recited by Dr. Francesca Jhoanna Olmedo, the younger daughter of Onib and Bettina Olmedo. The welcome remarks were delivered by Onib's widow.

The lecture was capped by an appeal from Silvana Diaz addressed to the art patrons present at the function to submit colored prints or slides of Olmedo paintings to his widow, Bettina, to be used in the book that is being written by the award-winning writer Fe Capellan Arriola, and another book to be produced by the eminent art critic, Alfredo Roces. Olmedo collectors can mail the photographs to Benina Olmedo, 43 M. Roxas St., South Admiral Village, L.P. Leviste Avenue, Parañaque City.

JOSE Yulo Quiros, Vivian Yuchengco, Bayani and Amy Loste were among the art patrons who attended the lecture.

Portraits . . .

(From page D8)

copter and sun, a bull's-eye, floating dentures, outline profiles of four boys talking. On the floor were five multicolored beach balls of varying sizes, and a plastic toy robot.

Watery ground

Lyra Abueg Garcellano's "Restraining Grief," aluminum sheets, digital photos, plaster, was moving in its question "What is your prized possession?" spelled out on plaster blocks, then answered by digital images (courtesy of PDI): A drowned 4-year-old child salvaged from a resort pool; people fleeing from a neighborhood fire with their belongings such as chairs, electric fan, pail, Sacred Heart icon; police interrogations and public maulings of snatchers and holduppers caught after divesting their victims of bracelets or P800.

This was supplemented by an album titled "Mawala Na ang Lahat Huwag Lang ang...," which had photographs of people from a cross-section of society speaking about their prized possessions. The tattered album was contained in a rusty steel box, as if it were the dearest object in the world.

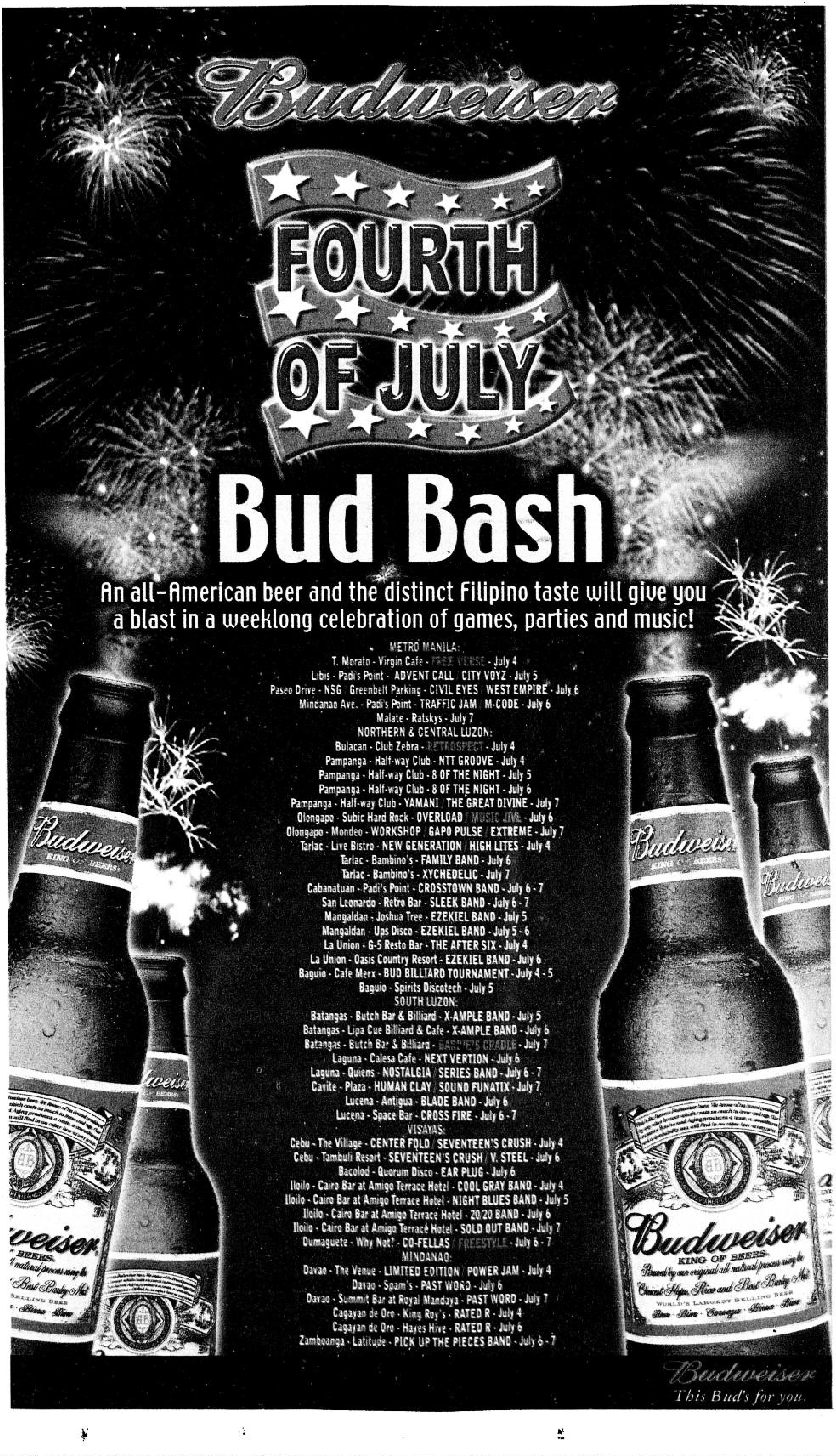
Eduardo Enriquez's "The State We're In" was a folded object placed on a white board in the middle of the lane right on the floor, where it was in danger of being stepped on. When you looked closer, you found it was the red-white-and-blue Philippine flag wrapped over pink plastic bags of garbage and secured with a yellow nylon cord, as if it were a criminal trying to break free.

We particularly warmed up to Gary-Ross Pastrana's "And So the Dead Tongue Spoke," soil, photographs and chair. It was just a pile of soil and beside it a slant-backed armchair on whose arm was a photo album containing a series of snapshots documenting how the artist dug the ground to get this dump.

As the work progressed, the young man started to be surrounded by a watery hole. The last two photographs showed him falling backward into the puddle, then drowning. The artist was practically digging his grave, and you were now looking at his tomb.

This, at last, was a portrait of the artist as a young man. It was wit that approached wisdom.

We would like to see this young man in the future do something permanent with his art, because an installation, however you define it, is always ephemeral. Portraits are supposed to last.



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Cabanatuan - Padi's Point - CROSSTOWN BAND - July 6 - 7
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Laguna - Calesa Cafe - NEXT VERTION - July 6
Laguna - Quiens - NOSTALGIA / SERIES BAND - July 6 - 7
Cavite - Plaza - HUMAN CLAY / SOUND FUNATIX - July 7
Lucena - Antigua - BLADE BAND - July 6
Lucena - Space Bar - CROSS FIRE - July 6 - 7
VISAYAS:
Cebu - The Village - CENTER FOLD / SEVENTEEN'S CRUSH - July 4
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Iloilo - Cairo Bar at Amigo Terrace Hotel - COOL GRAY BAND - July 4
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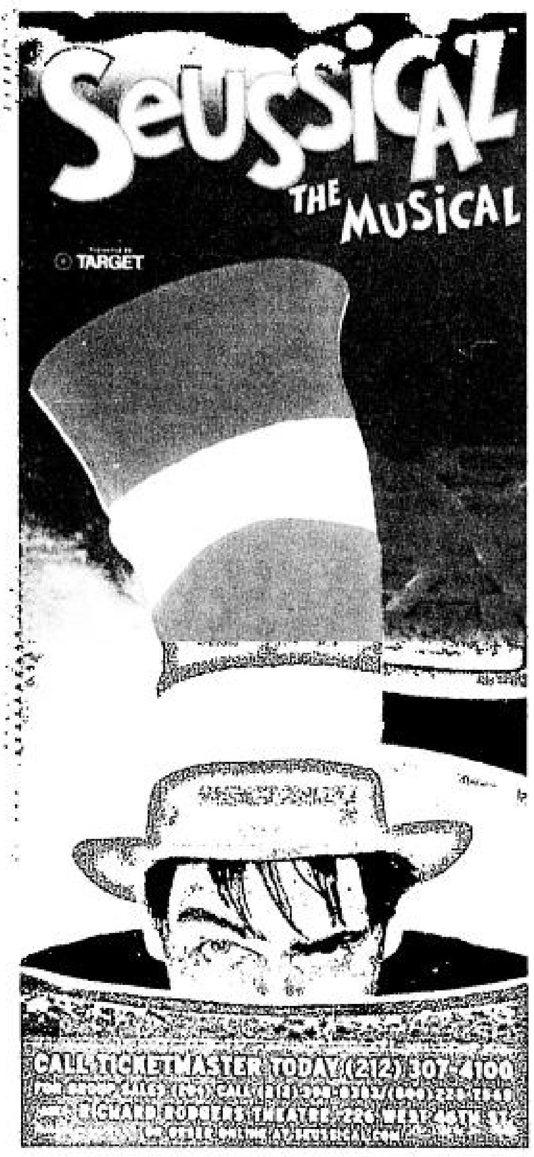
Ogling at the Great White Way



UNIVERSAL Studio's answer to Disney rampage on Broadway

By Audie Gemora

THESE are troubled times and yet I have noticed a lot of friends and acquaintances still traipse off to the United States for a vacation. I suppose they figure that at the rate local politics is taking its toll on our economy, it is better to go before the exchange rate gets any worse.

OF STAGE

Being of the same mind, I took off for New York City and had myself a Great White Way Christmas. Hey, it was better than sitting through that farcical telenovela of an impeachment trial at the Senate and waiting for the peso to fall so far I would never be able to afford a Broadway ticket.

It was worth every devaluated peso I spent. And to prove it, here's a run down of the On and Off Broadway shows I caught. For those who intend to visit the Big Apple, this may just help you gauge which shows to spend your precious greenbacks on.

Hottest tickets

With "Miss Saigon" closing in January, the only long-running musicals left on the strip are "Rent," "Phantom of the Opera" and "Les Misé-

OGLING/ p.E4

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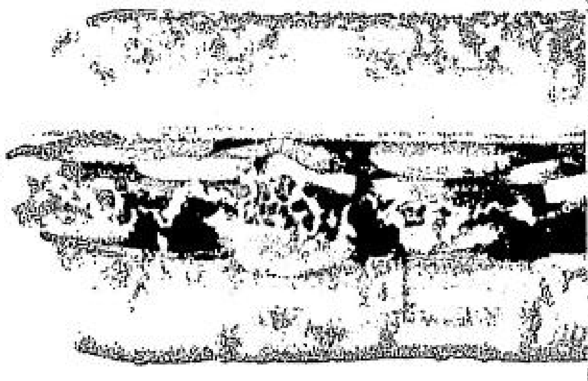
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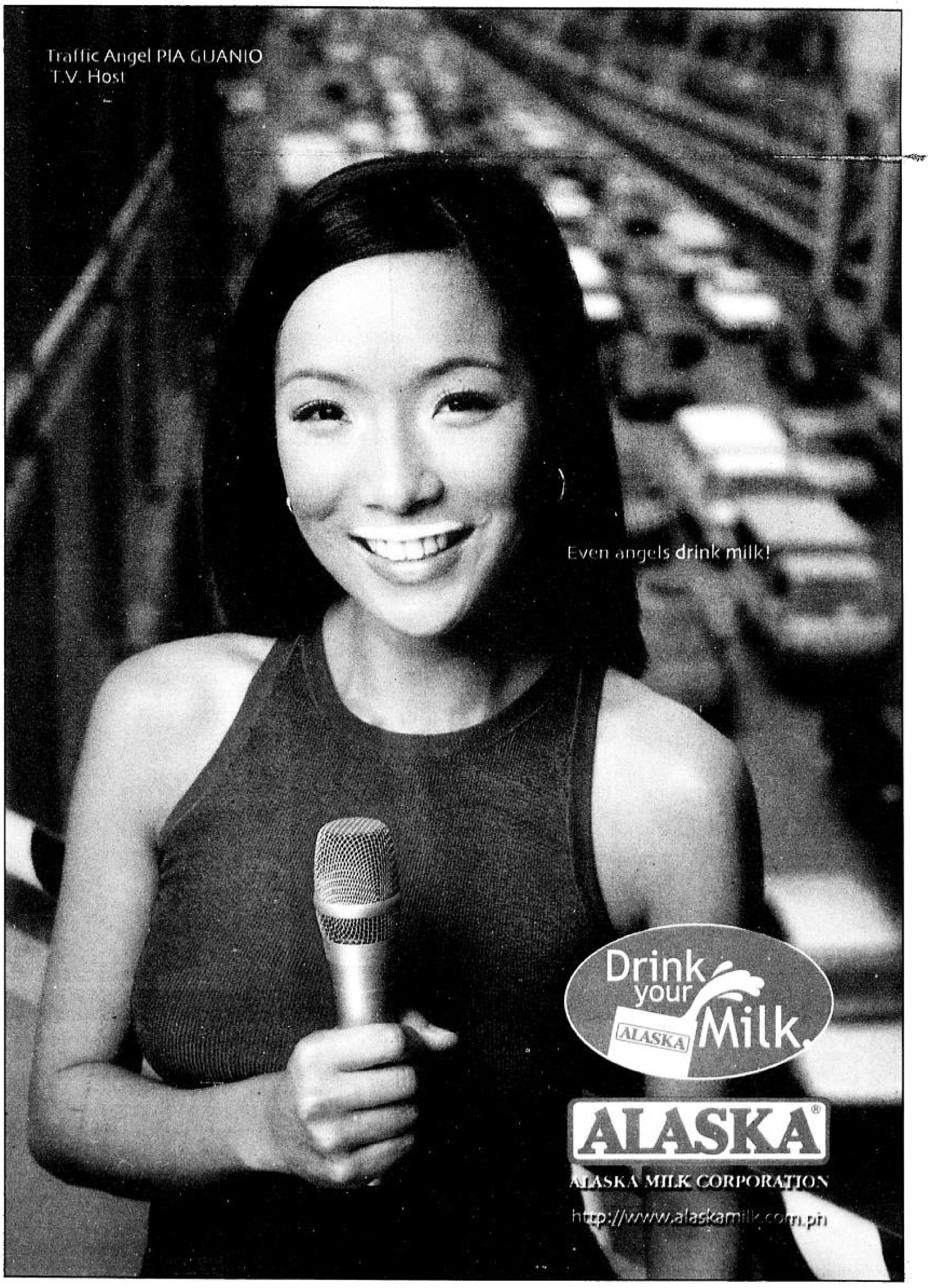


22 pilgrims celebrate Mass on top of Mt. Sinai in Egypt

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

PERHAPS Fr. Edione Febrero never expected to celebrate Mass at the top of Mount Sinai in Egypt where Moses received the Ten Commandments from God. Twenty-two pilgrims, including him and Travel Bounty manager Chikie Marfori-Cruz, went up the mountain on May 14 at 2 a.m. starting from St. Catherine Plaza Hotel.

It took them five hours to reach the summit. They did so without complaint. Each pilgrim felt a personal experience with the Lord. God was their only strength as they struggled through the fear of heights, craggy cliffs, rock ridges and darkness.

And when Father Edione began to say Mass, strong winds distracted the priest for a while. But he went on anointing everybody. He asked Chikie to read the Ten Commandments.

At that moment, they probably felt Moses. Chikie said, "We went down Mount Sinai gushing with joy, eager to share the experience and the blessings we received from Yahweh who appeared to Moses on the very same mountain. Everyone was in a sense transfigured."

After a while, the group drove to the Holy Land where they saw the church built on the spot where the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, the Church of the Nativity, the Church of the Flagellation and did the Way of the Cross. Later they reached Bethany where a beautiful church features on its walls the stories of how Jesus visited Martha and Mary and brought Lazarus back to life. Each pilgrim had his own "oasis experience."

Pilgrimage leader

TRAVEL Bounty is going back to the Holy Land via Paris and Lourdes on Sept. 19. After three days, the group will fly to Tel Aviv to enter the Holy Land. Bishop Ramon Arguelles will be the chaplain of the pilgrims.

On Oct. 1, feast of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, the group will fly from Tel Aviv to Paris from where they will drive to Lisieux. On the next day, the group will visit the mountain of St. Michael. On Oct. 4, they'll fly back to Manila. Those interested to join can call Travel Bounty at 426-5619 or (0917) 7908-100.

Loving hands

WHEN John Corcovich read about Mario Somera in my column last year, he went to Mario's perfume store at Glorietta I and asked him how he could help the Loving Hands of Joseph and Mary Foundation.

Mario, cofounder Brenda Reyes, Babot Oreta and some friends were putting up the Ephesus Home in Bo. Tabe, Guiguinto, Bulacan for abused children.

Ultimately, John gave two checks from the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation. He is a nephew. John and Mario became friends and are now working toward the realization of the foundation's dream of opening the house on Sept. 1 for its dry run.

Fr. Boyet Concepcion, the spiritual director, himself runs Bethlehem for abandoned children, also in Bulacan. It took five years for all these to come true. Bulacan Gov. Josie de la Cruz donated a 2,000-sq m lot, where a dormitory was built through fund-raising.

Mario's friends are excited to help. His fellow stewards and stewardesses from PAL have committed to becoming "servants" of the "dwellers" (meaning the children).

Lingling King, wife of Archie King (who himself gave), donated 100 bed sheets; Bingbing Singson gave a freezer; the Holiday Inn in Los Angeles donated 120 towels.

The home now needs used clothes for 4- to 14-year-olds, kitchen utensils, plates and cutlery. And more financial assistance, if possible. To help, please call the office of Jocelyn Poon (where the board members meet) at tel. 638-0568 or Mario at (0917) 382-4674 or 812-6313.

FR. Edione Febrero with pilgrims in front of the Church of the Flagellation

Icon exhibit

TO HELP raise funds, 15 religious icons painted by Filipina artist Nanette Kinear-Stamper, who is based in Athens, will be exhibited on July 19 at the China Bistro on the occasion of Babot Aspiras-Oreta's birthday. Proceeds will go to Ephesus Home.

Helping in the foundation as board members are Emily Ang, Ofelia Benavides, Alice Cabahug, Belen Carisma, Lourdes Choa, Gloria Garcia, Margaret Kwok, Wilhelmina Pulumbarit, Linda Tiu and Vivian Uy.

Those who want to donate old clothes can bring it to the second floor of Corbi Building on E. Rodriguez Avenue, Libis, QC. Ask for Ms Poon's office.

14th Mother Teresa Award

THE MANILA Jaycees and the AY Foundation are now accepting nominations for the 14th Mother Teresa Award. It recognizes lay individuals or religious nuns and priests who have dedicated their lives in helping the "poorest of the poor."

All candidates will be screened by distinguished consultants and members of the award committee. A board of judges will select the recipient of the award.

For nomination forms, please call 525-6792/2631 or fax 525-6814. You can submit nominations at any of the RCBC branches. Deadline is on July 15. Awarding is on Aug. 27, the birthday of Mother Teresa.

St. Anthony de Padua Parish says 'thank you'

THE PARISHIONERS of St. Anthony de Padua in Rosales, Pangasinan led by Fr. Dimas Jacinto and Juanita Sandoval, parish council president, would like to thank our readers for responding to their call for help in repairing the church.

A Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated on June 13 with the people praying for those who donated.

Militia de Immaculata gathering

THOSE who want to become members of the Militia de Immaculata can call Fr. Stephen Bejo at 826-0898.

There will be a gathering on July 14, 2 p.m., at the St. Maximilian Kolbe Seminary on John Paul Street in Multinational Village in Parañaque.

Request to the Divine Mercy

MARIO Somera is a devotee of the Divine Mercy. I will write in a future column about his encounter with Stanley Villavicencio of Cebu, who is God's instrument in preaching about the Divine Mercy here and abroad. But Mario says that you can text your prayer request to the Divine Mercy through (0917) 382-4674 or 812-6313.

We are living in difficult times and we need God's help. If you see an icon of the Divine Mercy, kneel and pray, then touch the heart and feet of Jesus.

Cancer victim needs help

READER Eufemia Garcia needs financial help and lots of prayers. Eufemia is suffering from cancer. She cannot anymore pay for medicine and treatment. Those who want to help can call her at 998-2405. Thank you for your kindness.

SAINT for vocations In celebration of Blessed Hannibal Mary di Francia's 150th birth anniversary, his heart relic will be brought to the Philippines on Nov. 23, coinciding with the 25th year of the Rogationists' presence in the country. Beatified by Pope John Paul II on Oct. 7, 1995, he was proclaimed as the Authentic Precursor and Zealous Apostle of the Modern Pastoral Care for Vocations.

US ballet sensation in Manila

AMERICAN ballet sensation Marcelo Gomes of New York's American Ballet Theater will be the international guest artist of the Philippine Ballet Theater when it opens its 2001 season at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

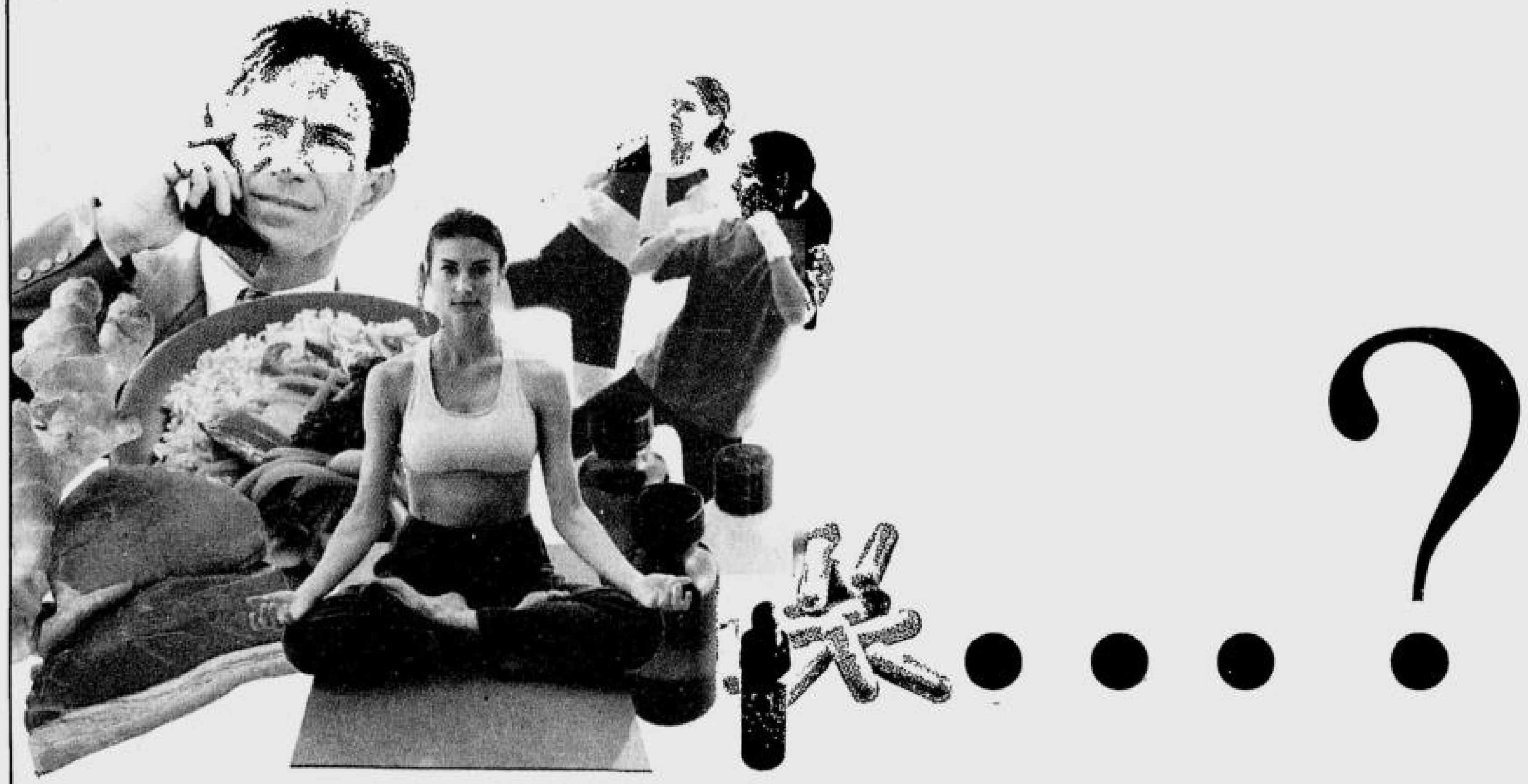
A native of Brazil, Gomes received his early training in Rio de Janeiro, first with Helena Lobato and then Dalal Achcar. At 13, he attended the Harid Conservatory in Florida for three years before being awarded a scholarship to the Paris Opera Ballet School. There, under the tutelage of Serge Golovine, Claude Bessy and Gilbert Mayer, Gomes refined the clean technique and style that he has since become known for internationally.

Before joining American Ballet Theater in 1997, Gomes had already acquired an extensive repertoire, which included Bluebird and the Prince Desire in "Sleeping Beauty," Basilio in "Don Quixote," both Benno and Siegfried in "Swan Lake," Colas in "La Fille Mal Garden," the Cavalier in "The Nutcracker" and Franz in "Coppelia." He has performed as soloist on the stage of the Palais Garnier with the Ecole de Danse de L'Opera National de Paris, and has received numerous awards, including second prize at the National Society of Arts and Letters, the Soloist Revelation Award at the Joinville Winter Festival and the prestigious Hope Prize at the Prix de Lausanne in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Gomes was promoted to soloist last year.

Performances are on July 5-8 at 8 p.m., with matinees at 3 p.m. on July 7-8.

GOMES



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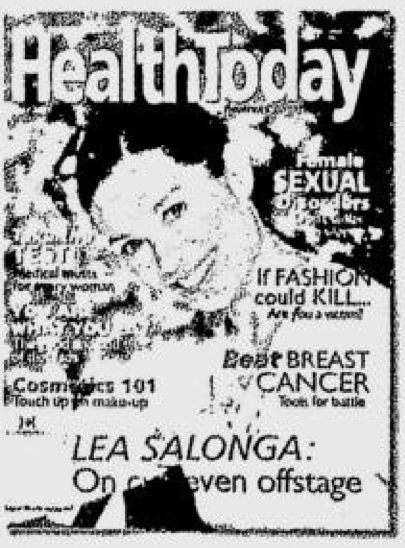

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A musical life in the shadow of the mercurial Mayon

By Pablo A. Tariman

CECILE Licad with Legazpi City Mayor Imelda Roces and Albay-based cellist-painter Dehlia Rebustillo after an electrifying performance of Buencamino's Mayon Concerto at Albay Hotel in 1997 during the First Bicol International Music Festival.

WHEN Mayon Volcano erupted last week, I couldn't help recalling my earlier life spent in a Bicol town bounded by the perfect cone on one side and the distant Rapu-Rapu island on the other.

In the late '70s, I covered a Mayon eruption for a paper (two of its top editors found their way in the PDI in the '90s) and for several weeks, I was volcano specialist along with science reporter Alberto Rous.

With amusement now, I recall that the big bang and my stories about it landed on the front page. But I became restless when the terrifying groans of the bowels of the earth stopped and the Mayon show was confined to a quiet lava flow. (For us young correspondents then, flying boulders were news but a silent lava flow was non-news and not fit for telex report.)

It was during this lull that I turned on my portable radio cassette, tuned in to a sister station of dzFE (dwAS) where by chance I heard Phillip Entremont play a Mozart sonata. When the lull became unbearable, I played my tape of Mesdames Armovit and Gregorio playing Buencamino's Mayon Concerto (played at Legazpi City's St. Agnes Hall). By then, I could see more exasperation in the faces of my co-reporters.

It was with Buencamino and Mozart in the background that I filed my report. I thought that the lull in the activity of Mayon Volcano was better appreciated, listening to music in this distant barrio in Camalig town, just a few kilometers away from the volcano.

Twenty-eight years ago, I left my Quiapo abode (right at the back of the ancestral house of Lito Molina, whose father, an orchestra founder and cellist, was to become a National Artist for Music) and headed for Albay where a new job awaited me.

I rented a bungalow by the sea (at, believe it or not, P200 a month) and bought a new stereo by installment. My day would start with Glenn Gould playing Bach's Goldberg Variations. While out on the yard, I watched with awe the beauty and splendor of Mayon Volcano. At night in my backyard facing the sea, I'd listen nonstop to Beethoven's Emperor Concerto after a night out with friends crooning "Puff the Magic Dragon."

On weekends, my friend Philip Molina (he died in a car accident three years ago) would climb Lingyon Hill overlooking the city airport, lugging a tape recorder playing (yes, that piece again!) Bach's Goldberg Variations by Glenn Gould.

At the time, I had yet to hear Buencamino's Mayon Concerto, which I heard later in a school recital featuring a recitalist (my drinking buddy—a pianist and folk singer and soon-to-be dentist Rolando Esquela). By then, I thought Mayon was better seen than heard.

What did I see in Albay in eight years that I was in perennial awe of the volcano?

I enjoyed Everardo Napay's *zarzuela*, "Burak Sa Hardin Ning Pagkamoot (Flower in the Garden of Love)" at the St. Agnes Academy Hall. I guffawed at Fides Cuyugan Asensio making an acting and singing coup in Menotti's "The Telephone" at the Bicol College Gymnasium. I caught up with Rey Paguio's UP Concert Chorus in a downtown theater and met Tita King (Kasilag), who was inducting officers of a cultural society and gracing a cornerstone laying ceremony near the barracks where a Bicol cultural center was supposed to rise (it didn't). Also, I met Zenas Reyes Lozada for the first time; she was accompanying soprano Enciang Nepomuceno (again at the St. Agnes Hall) where, a year later, I heard Della Besa, Annie Gregorio and Mary Ann Armovit play Ravel and Buencamino (this was where I got my first live and recorded Mayon Concerto by Buencamino).

Of course, the concert that changed my life in Legazpi City was hearing the then 12-year-old Cecile Licad play Mozart and Chopin at the St. Agnes Hall. I taped that recital, played it all day in my beach house, made a radio program out of it and followed the pianist in Manila where, for the first time in 1975, I entered the portals of the Cultural Center of the Philippines to hear my favorite prodigy play three concertos in one evening (Bach, Ravel and Rachmaninoff).

Twenty-six years after that encounter in Bicol, the pianist and I decided to go back to Albay (a full grand piano rented from Lyric Piano traveled more than 400 km from Manila to Legazpi City for this 1977 Albay homecoming concert). We visited the Rebustillo house in Old Albay where we had first met. The Albayanos were stunned by her Beethoven but it was her rendering of her granduncle's Mayon Concerto that triggered a euphoric standing ovation and a mad scramble for her autograph.

Nowadays, I tell myself that once upon an idyllic time in Bicol, I actually ventured near the danger zone of an angry volcano and filed reports of her fiery temperament with Mozart and Buencamino in the background.

Here and there

THE COMPLETE movements of the Grieg and Tchaikovsky concertos will be heard for the first time in Ilagan, Isabela and Virac, Catanduanes through a special performance of pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes in those places on My 22 and Aug. 11 respectively. Venue in Isabela is the Hotel Roman's Ville Ballroom where the First Cagayan Valley International Music Festival opened in November last year with a standing ovation for Chinese-American cellist Angela Lee and pianist J. Greg Zuniega. For invitational tickets to Isabela and Catanduanes concerts, please call 643-7428 or (0919) 371-6198.

* * *

One of the highlights of the July 14 Philamlife concert of soprano Elaine Lim Lee is a performance of Schubert's "Shepherd on the Rock" with Ariel Sta. Ana on the clarinet and to be assisted by pianist Miguel Antonio Castro. It would be wonderful to find out how the soprano would interpret Mozart's "Exultate Jubilate" after that exhaustive coaching from soprano Evelyn Mandac. After two sessions, Mandac noted that Lee learns "very fast."

BICOL *zarzuela* composer Everardo Napay conducting an Albay orchestra in the '70s.

Another guest artist of Lee is flutist Sonny Yangco who will play Bizet's "Carmen Fantasy" with the Manila Festival Orchestra under Nonoy Diestro. For tickets, call Gigi at 723-7767 to -70.

* * *

Tenor Sal Mineo Malaki and soprano Kit Viguilla will be heard at the CCP Little Theater on July 13. A product of the Philippine High School for the Arts and the UP College of Music, Viguilla took advance studies and earned her diploma in opera singing at the Biel Conservatorium in Switzerland. She will close the Filipino Artists Series on Nov. 27.

* * *

Is it a coincidence that every time conductor Piero Gamba is about to conduct the Philippine Philharmonic, natural and manmade calamities drown out the concert publicity. The first time he came, CCP had to reset the concert because of a coup attempt. The next time, it was the Pinatubo eruption. The last he came, there was a big flood, and now, as he was rehearsing Beethoven's Ninth, Mayon Volcano erupted in all her fiery glory. At any rate, Beethoven's Ninth is one reason you should watch the PPO concert tonight (July 2, if you can afford the ticket) at the fully air-conditioned Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park with soloists Nolyn Cabahug, Rachelle Gerodias, Jai Sabas and Elmo Makil. A curiosity is Bach's Concerto for Four Pianos featuring Nena del Rosario, Buny Armacost, Carminda de Leon and Amelita Guevara.

* * *

Verdi's full-length "Il Trovatore" complete with sets comes back to life in Manila's opera scene as PPO's season opener in September this year with Ruggero Barbieri conducting. This is a co-production with a Singapore-based opera company. The last time this opera was heard was in the early '50s at the FEU Auditorium and the tenor was Pavarotti's teacher, Arrigo Pola, and Leonora was Baby Arenas' mother, Remedios Bosch Jimenez. This was presented by an opera company with the late Maestra Isang Tapales as musical director and with Charito Planas as president. Pola taught at UP, appeared in a Filipino film and endorsed San Miguel Beer in a print commercial in the '50s. When Pavarotti visited Manila in 1994, one of his callers was Dalisay Aldaba (the first Filipino to sing "Madama Butterfly" at the New York City Opera) who told the tenor she was a good friend of Pola. Aldaba said she and Pola sang together in embassy parties in Japan where the soprano was, for a time, the cultural attaché.

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Festival showcases regional drama

BY CORA LLAMAS

IF you've ever wanted to see what theater is like outside Metro Manila, but couldn't because of time and budget constraints, a four-day drama showcase starting this Thursday at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) will give you the chance.

"A Festival of Four Plays: A Celebration of Philippine Theater" brings together some of the best works originated this year in regions such as Iloilo, Mindanao, Bicol and Manila.

"Festival" is actually the culmination of last year's "Sandiwaan," a year-long project of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) that awarded production grants to theater groups representing the country's four regions. The grantees then put up their own theater productions in compliance with the NCCA's four requirements: a) the material should be based on a work of a National Artist for Literature, or on the myths, epics and other folklore of the region; b) significant regional writers should write the scripts; and c) the finished productions should weave together various aspects of the arts and multimedia (dance, visuals, film, etc.).

Out of these 13 plays, the top four embarked on a tour throughout Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, converging now in Metro Manila. The NCCA hopes that NCR audiences will share the experience of their regional counterparts: an artistic exchange that diminishes boundaries and helps pave the way for a new kind of cultural understanding.

Ramon Santos, festival director for external affairs, says that "Sandiwaan" is not just a bridge, but an act of integration—"of our expressive cultures into different productions which embody a whole spectrum of literary heritage, whether oral or written."

Each play will have a day to run two performances (3 p.m. and 7 p.m.) at the CCP Little Theater.

Quest

Dulaang Talyer's "Bilog," representing the NCR, opens the festival on July 5. This retelling of the Panay mythology of creation is actually a reflection of man's quest for companionship, myth and romantic love. This is the third incarnation of the play, which evolved from its modest beginnings in 1995 to become a must-see hit in the theater circuit last year. Through an uncanny mix of text, movement and music, visual art, photography and video, "Bilog" juxtaposes past and present, myth and reality. The on-again-off-again marriage of gods Tungkong Langit and Alunsina comes full circle in the predicaments of a neglected wife, a single woman battling with moral ambiguity, and a man scared of intimacy.

The Arts Council of Iloilo, Inc. will perform "Panayon" on July 6. An ambitious collection of 10 Panay epics, it threads together the exploits of Datu Paiburong and his clan. The Suludnon Society, women from the indigenous communities of Central Panay, utter a series of chants in Kiniray-a, complemented by visual arts, music, drama and dance.

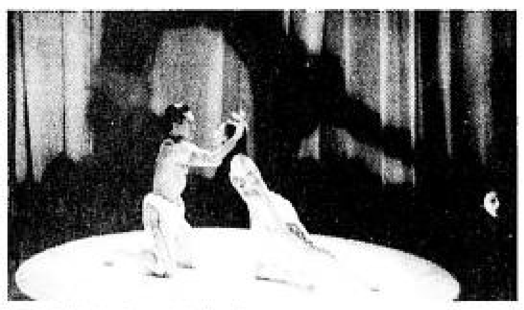
On July 7, "Kantada ni Daragang Magayon Mandirigma" resets the legend of Mt. Mayon in our pre-Hispanic matriarchal past. The traditional tale has the Princess Magayon rescued from the forces of evil by her lover, Prince Ulap. In this version, though, Magayon is a fighter, not a victim; she is the one who wages war against the villain, prejudice against women and other forms of oppression. "Kantada ni Magayon" is a joint presentation of the Aquinas University of Legazpi Center for Culture and the Arts, Letra Bikol, Ink and the Sorsogon Arts Council.

According to some of the artists, mythology is a powerful device that connects the audience with its submerged national roots and stirs an awakening of Pinoy-centric consciousness. "Because of our mixed culture," says "Bilog" director Paul Morales, "you have to root the production in something truly Filipino and recreate something from our past."

REGIONAL theater festival director Brenda Fajardo, Jazmin Llana of the "Kantada ni Daragang Magayon Mandirigma" production of Bicol and Paul Morales of the "Bilog" production of NCR ERIK ARAZAS

NCCA chair Jaime Laya

A SCENE from "Mindasilang"



A SCENE from "Bilog"

Discovery

Jazmin Llana, "Magayon's" director, starts her epic as a modern Filipino's voyage of discovery toward his identity. "This modern man comes up to the volcano and asks it how it could look so beautiful from the outside and yet so scarred when you come up close. Mayon invites the man to look into her past. And he sees that underneath this wondrous mountain are the graves of the Princess Magayon and the evil hunter Pagtuga. They had died fighting each other." Beauty battling the beast. Awe-inspiring wonder versus prevailing wickedness. It almost sounds like a description of the conditions besetting our Inangbayan.

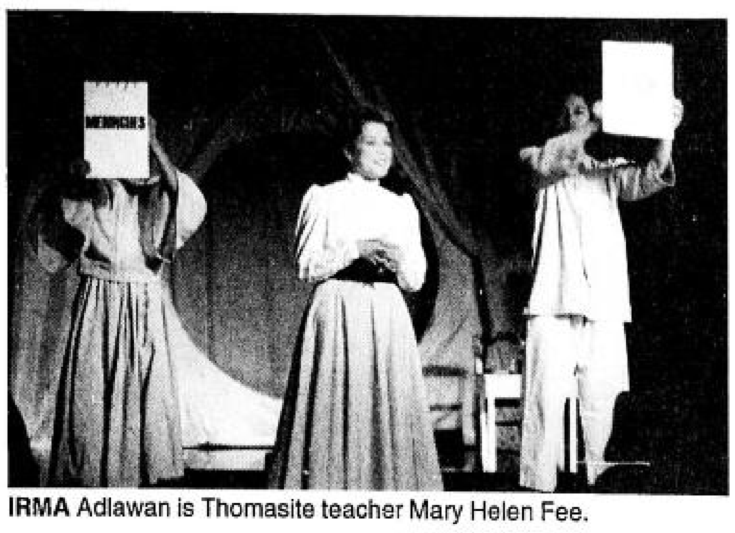
The last play, "Mindasilang," is the most realistic of the four. The poems of Amado Hernandez and Jose Garcia Villa serve as the dramatic text portraying the Mindanaoan people's continuing struggle. Complex issues such as environmental despoliation, ethnicity, ancestral lands, gender violence, and the age-old Christian-Muslim conflict are elevated to "theater reality" via dance, song, and discussions in verse. "Mindasilang" is performed by the Kaliwat Theater Collective, the Kathara Dance Theater Collective, and other Mindanao artists.

NCCA chair Jaime Laya lauds the "Sandiwaan" as a means of national exposure for budding innovative new artists. The toured performances in particular "had projected the arts to the general public who don't really think of the arts."

Hopefully, more art-inspiring events of the Filipino kind will be made available to this same public soon. Says Laya, "Each year, we could have a different focus in terms of themes and activities. We could focus on a specific art form and highlight it in a region that is known for it. Baguio, for example, could host a festival on the visual arts."

In the meantime, the festival opens up an entirely new world of Pinoy mythology performed according to the nuances of regional dramaturgy. Augmenting the evening productions are afternoon workshops that can encourage the theater audience to explore the deeper layers of its culture: Folklore in Theater Workshop (Aquinas University of Legazpi), Forum and Workshop on Creative Peace and Education (Mindulani Inc.), The Music of the Sulodnon People (Arts Council of Iloilo Inc.) and Acting Workshop for Beginners (Dulaang Talyer).

"A Festival of Four Plays" will run July 5-8 at the CCP Tanghalang Tolentino. Call 527-2192 to -98.



IRMA Adlawan is Thomasite teacher Mary Helen Fee.

The Thomasite adventure

BY DR. ALLAN PUNZALAN ISAAC

THE SHIP'S melancholy bellows drone as a voice calls out the names of teacher-missionaries collectively known as the Thomasites, who transformed our tropical archipelago in 1901 with their pedagogical mission. As the roll is called, the American sounds metamorphose into a jungle din: a chorus in the shadows strike bamboo rhythms and hurl a cacophony of animal noises in the darkness. The American sounds have become Filipino.

Thus opens "One Hundred Songs of Mary Helen Fee/Isang Daang Awit Ni Mary Helen Fee," written by Tony Perez, directed by Nonon Padilla and performed by CCP's Tanghalang Pilipino on June 14 and 15. Based on the "impressions of the Philippines" written at the turn of century, the one-woman monologue bears witness to the birth of the Philippine public education system.

The original play adaptation marks the centennial of the arrival of the Thomasites. On Aug. 21, 1901, on the heels of the American soldiers posted throughout the islands during the Philippine-American war, came the teachers aboard the USS Thomas. Young teachers—some idealists, some adventurers, all with a vision—set eyes upon Philippine shores to reimagine the tropics and themselves. Mary Helen Fee was one of these original teachers stationed in Capiz.

Perez has woven an assortment of Fee's essays, criticisms and journal entries into a striking portrait. Meanwhile Padilla richly gives life and color to the mutually transformative power of that ambivalent but productive encounter between America and the Philippines. Played by Irma Adlawan with an impeccable American accent, Fee recounts the horrors and ambivalence she has about being in the Philippines, Filipinos and their potential for development, she offers insight into the Filipino psyche. We might recoil at many of her imperial pronouncements, yet others seem to ring true even today: the palpable class differences, the intransigent ruling classes and their customs and the resistant desires of the underclass.

The passing of time is marked by different colored shawls covering her as she discovers the complexities of her tutelary wards. While the play sets up the clash of cultures as reason against nature and logic against emotion, we find the blurring to be inevitable as the teacher is reduced to an emotional wreck at one point in the play. By the same token the Filipino pupil's purported emotionalism and irrationality are riven by the logic of nationalism and self-determination.

As a professor of English in the US focusing on American imperialism, I consider myself a part of that long and painful history of US-Philippine educational relations. I ride the reverse historical and pedagogical tides across the Pacific. Perhaps it is one of the ironies of history that I return the favor and teach Americans not only English but stories, islands and songs they have long since forgotten. The birth of Philippine public education gave life to a hundred more songs and a thousand more poets than Fee could have imagined. As the play evinces, Fee's hundred songs have already fused with those of the islands. Like the American names melding with the sounds of tropical jungles, hers has become part of our *awit.*

The regular performances (in Tagalog and English) will take place at the CCP Experimental Theater Nov. 9-11, 16-18 and 23-25.

The author is an assistant professor of English at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. He received his doctorate in comparative literature from New York University. He has written for American Craft and Metropolitan magazines. His forthcoming book is titled "American Tropics: US Imperial Desires and Asian, Pacific and American Postcoloniality."

Ogling at the Great White Way

(From page E1)

rables." All are must-sees for those who haven't caught them yet. Word is the latter is waning in sales and may be axed soon, signaling the end of the Cameron Mackintosh era.

The new king of the mountain is undoubtedly Disney. It has taken over the once seedy 42nd Street with its animated hits turned into musicals, and with a wave of Tinkerbell's wand, magically turned the sleazy neighborhood into a squeaky-clean tourist belt.

"Beauty and the Beast," Disney's first Broadway offering, is now on its fourth year. "The Lion King" is booked all the way to 2002. The only way you may get a single ticket is at the cancellation line of the New Amsterdam Theater box office. However, those hoping to bring along the family ought to book way ahead of time. This can be done via Internet (ticket master.com or disneyonbroadway. com).

Disney's third offering is a deviation from its sure-fire animation feature to stage production formula. This time it looks to opera with "Aida," based on Puccini's classic tale about a Nubian princess enslaved by the Egyptians. It is a compelling love story for mature audiences. The production would have been perfect if not for Elton John's trite melodies (Disney should stop commissioning aging pop stars). Still, seeing the superb performance of Tony award-winning actress Heather Headley as Aida is worth every penny.

I hear Disney is fielding in "Pinocchio" and "The Little Mermaid" next.

Universal Studios' answer to Disney's Broadway onslaught is "Seussical—The Musical," a production based on the works of Dr. Seuss. The commissioned tandem of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty ("Once on This Island" and "Ragtime") built their story around favorite Seuss characters Horton the Elephant, a featherless bird Gertrude McFuzz and Jojo, a little boy from the microscopic world of the Whosville with The Cat in the Hat as narrator.

Despite the endearing characters, catchy tunes and heartwarming message, box-office receipts were low last winter, prompting actress Rosie O'Donnell to take on the Cat in the Hat role for a month as her way of helping "a show I really believe in." After her stint, the show's producers hired teenybopper idol Aaron Carter to star as Jojo.

High stakes

Indeed, stakes are so high in the New York theater industry that producers resort to all sorts of schemes just to draw the crowds.

One such scheme is employing stars. It works most of the time, though it does backfire ever so often. I kept away from "Jekyll and Hyde" and "Annie Get Your Gun" because I just couldn't stand the prospect of watching David Hasselhoff and Cheryl Ladd in the title roles.

Good ol' revivals banking on old-time hits is another ploy producers rely on. Thus, there is a flurry of revivals, including "Follies" and "42nd Street"; a hilarious production of "Kiss Me Kate" (about the off and onstage love/hate relationship of two theater stars played with perfect comic timing by the winsome Brian Mitchell and Marin Mazzie); and a fresh yet still nostalgic restaging of "The Music Man" by multiawarded director/choreographer Susan Stroman. She has come up with the most rousing finale I have ever seen in any musical—the whole cast becomes a marching band and plays "76 Trombones."

Sam Mendez's riveting staging of "Cabaret" transforms the legendary Studio 54 into a 1940s cabaret, complete with tables and chairs. More a play than a musical, it is stark and dark, devoid of Liza Minnelli's and Joel Grey's definitive performances from the 1973 film. Sally Bowles is played by Katie Finneran who sings "Cabaret" stoically after having just aborted her baby, bringing the song newfound dramatic power. The only thing this show couldn't completely reinvent was Bob Fosse's indelible choreography.

Dance musicals, Fosse's legacy, is alive and well on Broadway as evidenced by the revival of "Chicago" and a high-stepping dance revue featuring his best works aptly called "Fosse," which won the 1999 Tony for best musical. The original Fosse choreography in both shows were reconstructed by Anne Reinking who, along with another Fosse stalwart, Ben Vereen, star in the show named after their mentor.

Fosse, who died in 1987, was the first to create what the business now refers to as a dance musical. Dance musicals have dominated the recent seasons so much so that a controversy erupted when Susan Stroman's "Contact" ran away with the 2000 Tony award for best musical. A faction within the academy argued that technically it doesn't qualify as a musical because "Contact" has absolutely no singing and merely uses commercial recordings for background music. To resolve the raging controversy, the Tony's has opened a new category for dance musicals. Whatever has been said about it, "Contact" blew my mind. It is a series of playlets where actors break into dance instead of song.

Spinoffs from film

Broadway has also looked to the cinema as a likely source for shows. I caught the tail end of "Saturday Night Fever," a staged rehash of the 1977 John Travolta starrer. Save for the engaging '70s music, fabulous choreography, strong dancers in the cast headed by the lithe Sean Palmer, the adaptation was disappointingly literal and unimaginative.

On the other hand, the zany antics born out of the cult film "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" seem even more fun—live and in the round. Seated arena style at the Circle in the Square Theater, the audience is transported to the bizarre lab of the Frank N' Furter where the "sweet transvestite from Transylvania" unveils his numbskull monster. A lot of interaction happens, with no less than talk-show host Dick Cavett acting as Narrator. The strong cast, which includes Tom Hewitt (the original Scar in "Lion King") Daphne Rubin-Vega (the first Mimi of "Rent"), Jarrod Emick (Tony winner for "Damn Yankees") and Alice Ripley (original lead of "Side Show"), give the right tongue and cheeky performance that assures the house a wild good time.

"The Full Monty," based on the jolly British film about factory workers who put up an amateur strip show after being laid off work, gets my nod as the year's best musical. The writers reset the story in Ohio, developed endearingly down-to-earth characters and threw in some of the most refreshing tunes I've heard coming out of Broadway in a long time. The show is a riot. And I won't tell you if the guys really take it all off in the end.

Giving "The Full Monty" a run for its money is another film adaptation, Mel Brooke's "The Producers," starring Matthew Broderick and Nathan Lane. Critics have hailed it as the best book (good script) musical in years. "The Producers" is such a hit that tickets cost $100 a piece and tourists are actually buying scalper tickets at $300. Oddly, the show is about how a producer and his accountant manage to make it big by intentionally producing a flop.

Off Broadway

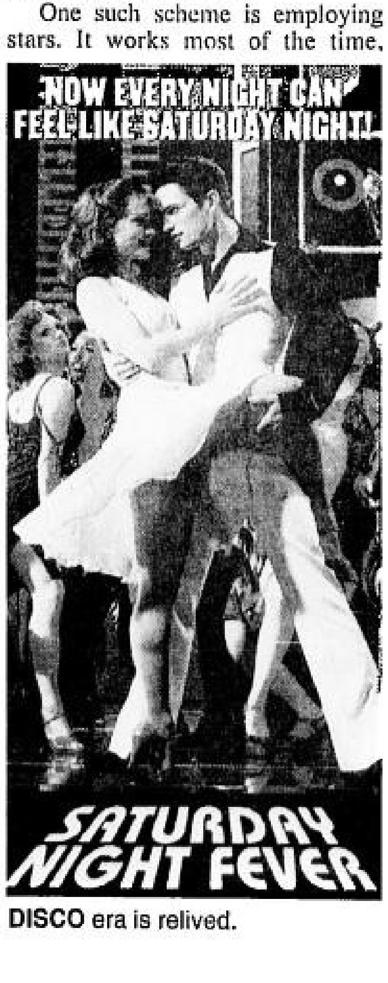
But who says you have to put out so much money to have a good time? If you ask me, the more exciting and progressive shows are not on Broadway but Off Broadway where theatergoers can have twice the entertainment for half the price.

I had the most amazing theatrical experience going to shows like "De La Guardia," "Stomp" and "Blue Man Group," all playing in small venues in the Lower Eastside. Notice that I said "going" and not "watching." These three shows are not musicals so much as they are performance art, a happening, an interactive experience. Between "De La Guardia's" wild water splashing, wall-scaling flying men and women to "Stomp's" heart-pounding, feet-stomping, handclapping rhythms to "Blue Man's" outrageously funny mouth-splattering toilet-paper wrapping antics, you couldn't have a better time in the theater.

I wouldn't be surprised if these Off Broadway shows outlive the ones on Broadway. Producers pump mega bucks into Broadway productions, forgetting that New York's longest-running musical, "The Fantastiks," has been playing out of the 100-seater Sullivan Street Playhouse in Greenwich Village with no more than a eight actors, a pianist, a harpist and a wooden platform for a set. It is now on its 40th year and when I watched it for the first time on New Year, it totally charmed me with its poetry and simplicity.

Finally, highly recommended by my New York-based friends is the newly premiered musical within a musical, "A Touch of Class," revolving around Edward Kleban, one of the creators of "A Chorus Line."

Considering the average Broadway fare is $45 (balcony), $90 (mezzanine) and $90 (orchestra), a Filipino tourist has to be ready to shell out at least P2,250 to get a seat. But don't panic. There are ways to get around these astronomical prices. Next week, a friend who lives in New York and whose passion it is to go to the theater will give tips on how to get bargains On and Off Broadway.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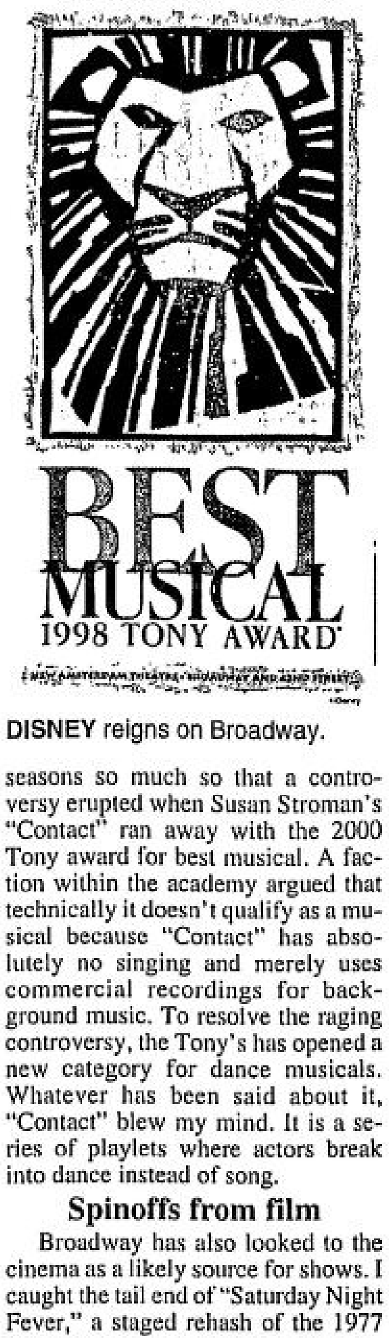


DISNEY reigns on Broadway.

Books

F. Sionel Jose

National Artist opens UST lecture series

NATIONAL Artist F. Sionil Jose will open the Associate Lecturer Series of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies on July 4, 1 p.m., at the audiovisual room of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, 1/F St. Raymund's (AB-Commerce) Building, UST, Manila.

Jose, senior associate of the Center, will talk on "Biography as Literature." The novelist will tackle the biographical and historical moorings of his famous fictional works as well as the socio-historical sources of the works of other fictionists such as Nick Joaquin, NVM Gonzales, Amador Daguio, Sinai Hamada, Ibrahim Jubaira, Manuel Arguilla and Charlson Ong. In tackling the historico-biographical inspiration of key Filipino writers, Jose seeks to encourage young writers to write in the context of their own country and society.

A panel discussion will follow featuring 1993 Ramon Magsaysay awardee Bienvenido Lumbera, Palanca Hall of Fame member Cirilo Bautista and Southeast Asia Write awardees B.S. Medina Jr. and Ophelia Alcantara-Dimalanta. Later, the Center will launch Jose's newest novel, "Ben Singkol." Jose will autograph copies of the book. The lecture is open to the public. Call 731-3101 local 8281.

FEU launches history book in Filipino

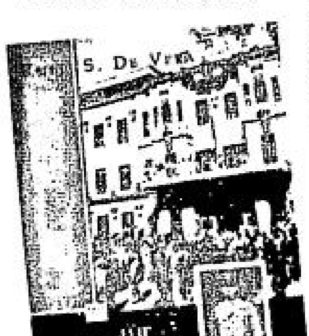
THE FAR Eastern University will launch "Mga Babasahin sa Kasaysayan ng Pilipinas," a translation of Fr. Horacio de la Costa's book, "Readings in Philippine History," tomorrow, 3 p.m., at the FEU Main Library.

Fr. Jose M. Cruz, dean of Ateneo de Manila University's College of Social Sciences, will talk about the book, while the translators Rofel Brion and Lourdes Concepcion will talk on how they undertook the translation work.

Copies of the book will be formally given to FEU board chair Lourdes Reyes-Montinola and president Edilberto C. de Jesus. FEU Institute of Arts and Sciences dean Angel O. Abaya will give the greetings while Prof. Generoso Pamittan of the Department of Communication will be the emcee.

Book on World War II set for release

THE BOOKMARK Inc. launches "The Zero Hour: The Personal War of Basilio J. Valdes" by Ruel S. de Vera on July 10 at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Ayala Triangle, Makati City.



"The Zero Hour" tells one of the great untold stories of World War II as seen through the eyes of General Valdes, a good friend, loyal soldier and devoted doctor to President Manuel Luis Quezon, President of the Philippine Commonwealth. The book chronicles how Valdes and the President's closest allies brought Quezon out of Manila and through the country's islands in search for safety with the Japanese military pursuing them every step of the way. It is a compelling wartime story of friendship, loyalty and of coming home. "The Zero Hour" also stands as a fitting portrait of the extraordinary man in an extraordinary journey as he walked through history in the making.

De Vera has written three books and coedited the anthology "Youngblood 2.0." He writes for the SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE. He also teaches journalism at the Ateneo de Manila University's Department of Communication.

Published by Bookmark Inc., "The Zero Hour" is available at all Filipino Bookstores in Glorietta, Shangri-La, Katipunan, Alabang Towncenter, Davao City and all Bookmark branches.

Book on Edsa II and 'III'

ANVIL Publishing Inc. will launch "Hot Money, Warm Bodies" by senior reporters Ellen Tordesillas and Greg Hutchinson on July 5, 6 p.m., at PowerBooks, 918 Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City.

In the tradition of best-selling suspense novels, "Hot Money, Warm Bodies" provides a behind-the-scene account of the events that paved the way for the downfall of the popular but tainted former President of the Philippines Joseph Ejercito Estrada. Also included are intimate details of the spicy lifestyle of the movie actor turned politician who sees as his only fault his inability to control his libido.

As a fitting prologue, the authors relate the six days of rage by the Estrada loyalists at the Edsa Shrine, which culminated in the storming of Malacañang Palace, now occupied by newly installed President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 100 days after People Power 2.

The book will also be launched on July 13, 6 p.m., at National Bookstore in Iloilo City. Call the Iloilo branch manager at (033) 320-8096. On July 14, 4 p.m., the book will be launched at Boracay SandCastles Beach Retreat White Beach, Boracay Island, Aklan.

Multiawarded reporter Tordesillas is a columnist of Malaya and Abante. Hutchinson has been a correspondent and editor for respected news agencies such as Reuters, the Financial Times, Sydney Morning Herald and the Australian Finance Review.

James Patterson's '1st' time offender

1st to Die
By James Patterson
Warner Books, New York, 2001
424 pages

By Ruel S. de Vera

REVIEW

SOME novelists have brilliant ideas and others have terrible ideas. In James Patterson's case, he has both and uses them to full effect in "1st to Die," his 14th serial killer blue light special. Having previously struck bloody gold with analytical Dr. Alex Cross in "Kiss the Girls" and "Along Came a Spider," Patterson launches a new series with this book, complete with new protagonists—to mixed results. But make no bones about it, "1st to Die" is a bloody read-bloody quick and just plain bloody.

Patterson has always been a very effective, if somewhat uneven producer of scary, readable serial thriller dramas. "1st to Die" is no different in that sense, except that the two bright ideas that make this book different go in completely different directions.

First of all, Patterson dispenses with the clinical, calculating Cross for tough but touchy-feely San Francisco detective Inspector Lindsay Boxer. Not only is Boxer smart, attractive and lonely, but she's battling a life-threatening disease, too. Add to that Patterson's brilliant franchise idea—hook Boxer up with three other smart women and call them The Women's Murder Club. Seriously. That the four women—Boxer's the cop, Cindy's the reporter, Jill's the lawyer and Claire's the doctor—shouldn't ethically be working together doesn't seem to slow down Patterson one bit. He even turns them into Boxer's own rah-rah estrogen-pumped support group.

But Patterson hits it on the mark with his antagonist, one of his creepiest yet. Red Beard is methodical and downright sick. See, he only kills newlyweds fresh from the ceremony, and then puts the bodies in sexually explicit positions afterward. Sick. And Patterson lays on the detail with gusto, truly giving this book an almost unbearably grotesque feel.

If you forget that he talks in this idiotically maniacal stage whisper literary villains always speak with, that is. Patterson gifts Red Beard with the ruthless precision of a virus and the dialogue of John Voight. Red Beard even has a catchphrase: "What is the worst thing anyone has done?" But readers won't be forgetting his scenes of choreographed carnage anytime soon.

Chilling breeze

"1st to Die" is a chilling breeze to read, thanks to the streamlined if tricky plot and Patterson's trademark staccato of very short chapters and his penchant for plot movement over poignant passages. From the first scene to the last, "1st to Die" just moves with the expectant speed of a murderer checking items on a to-do list.

Patterson tries a little too hard to make Boxer a sympathetic character to the point that she's practically unbelievable—not unlike the smooth Alex Cross.

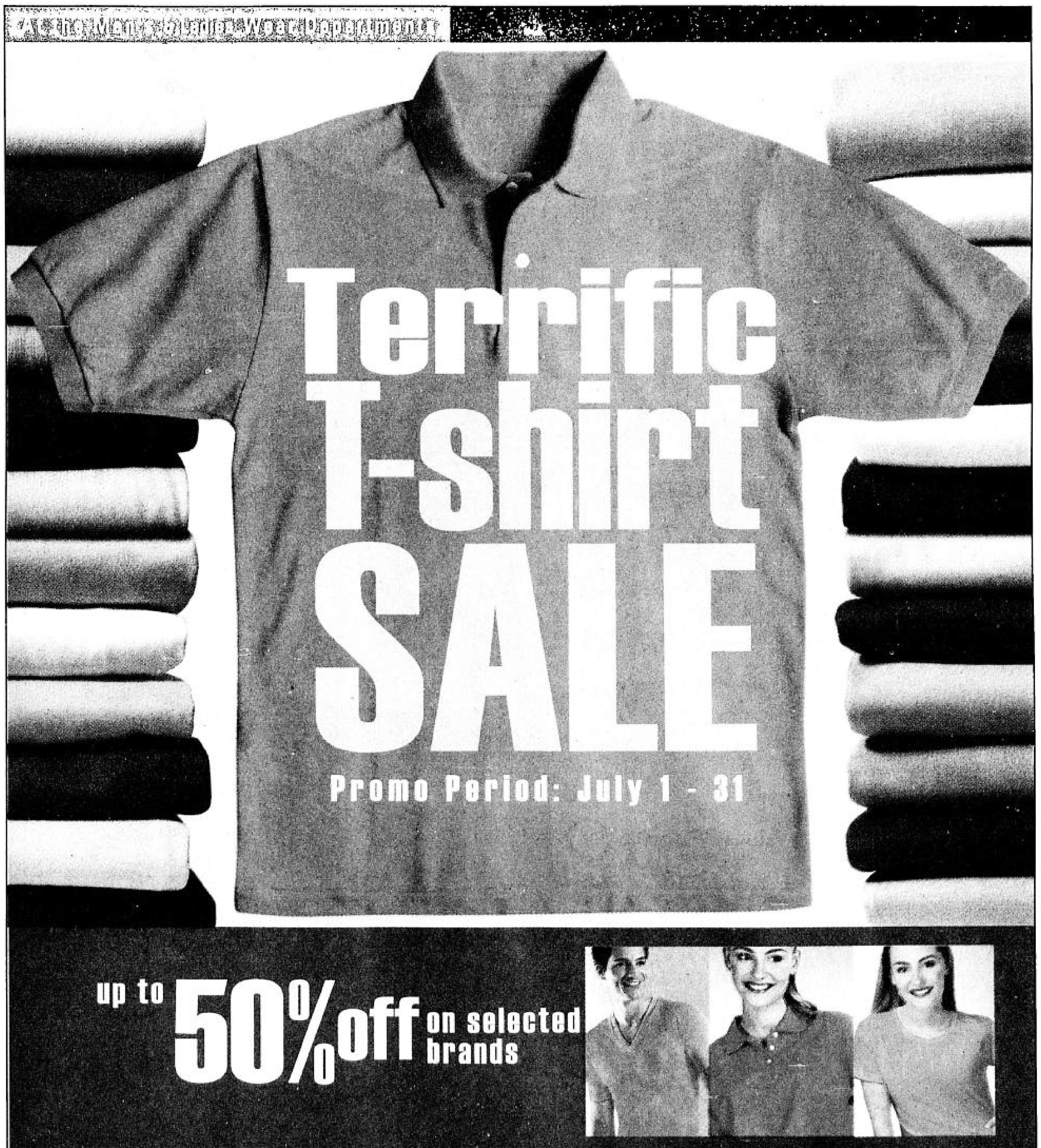
Add to that the fact that the Women's Murder Club gives the novel a definite "Murder, She Wrote" simplicity and convenience. But the Club is admittedly a catchy if not altogether believable gimmick, and readers will probably encounter them in Patterson's next few books.

"1st to Die" has a noticeable seriousness of intent to it that becomes evident once Patterson's plot starts to unfold. He adds a wonderful counterpoint with the cloying character of novelist Nicholas Jenks, who has written a novel detailing newlywed murders just like the ones that have been happening. Gasp. It's a twist that screams "red herring!" Is it?

Patterson packs too many surprises on the back end of "1st to Die," most notably tagging on a ridiculous and utterly unnecessary revelation. While some of his plot traps work like a sinister charm, others just fall flat like a murdered extra on a film set. One thing, though, readers will not be able to resist finding out who the clever killer is, no matter how lowbrow the novel's approach. Plus Patterson gets points for chutzpah for his tongue-in-cheek literary shadow: The Jenks character.

So much of "1st to Die" feels fabricated, too much like something that would work better as a movie or miniseries. It is an engrossing and gross, lightweight thriller that is not altogether unsatisfying if the reader is sitting in an airport lounge. James Patterson has created another franchise with the lame ascension of the Women's Murder Club and yet also gets high marks for still fashioning the best serial killers not named Hannibal Lecter or Buffalo Bill. After finding out who is "1st to Die," readers will have to be a little more discriminating with what comes next.

Available in paperback from National Bookstore and PowerBooks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Fevered pitch

DEAR Potential Sponsor,

My company's last TNT (The Necessary Theater) Series has just ended and our efforts in each of the four plays were happily rewarded by glowing reviews and very often SRO audiences. Despite that, I am once again experiencing (and this seems to be an annual occurrence as I struggle to get past the red bottom line) another identity crisis.

You see, we live in a country that is constantly on the brink of being overrun by squalor and chaos. We live in a country that is hurtling from one fiscal crisis to another. In short, we live in a country where it's easy for you to dismiss the theater as one of those dispensable activities of escapist leisure that don't deserve (although some productions do validate this accusation) the attention or support you should give it in the face of "more important matters." Many of you have memories of the theater as being something you had to see (or participate in) in high school, many of you see it as effete and sissified, and populated by "fringe dwellers."

These days I hesitate to call myself a "theater artist" because it sound so prissy and pretentious even though that is what I am. With apologies to Joey Reyes, I am sometimes tempted to say that I produce, act and direct "live shows." Such is its stigma, it isn't any wonder that many of you, while enjoying the rare trip to the theater, don't see it as a necessary endeavor at all. (By the way, I'd like to thank the pharmaceutical firm who took the time to write a letter of regret: "... because the situation in the country today calls for our resources to be channeled to programs in health and education for the poor and needy." I could show you my bank account. Maybe I might qualify for your assistance).

Herein stems my identity crisis, this little Woody Allen voice thickly laying on the self-doubt in the back of my head, "Perhaps everyone else is right. Perhaps it's true that you have no reason to exist if you are not economically 'competitive.' Perhaps you've been wasting my time all along. Perhaps you should have grabbed the offer to do that bold film when it was offered to you in your salad days...." (Yipes! Reality check in order.)

Don't get me wrong. I have lost neither optimism nor enthusiasm for what I do (what I love about being an artist is that it is de rigueur for us to remain obstinately optimistic in the face of every rational cause for a break down, e.g. you would think that selling only one painting in his entire lifetime, Van Gogh might have gotten the hint earlier on that no one was interested, but noooo, he had to keep doing it until he died), because here I am once again, hat in hand, asking you to support our new series, TNT 3: "Be!"

Begging your indulgence as I now shamelessly pitch, (skip to the end of next two paragraphs if shameless self-promotion disgusts you) let me quote from my own lovingly written TNT Series brochure: "The new season is subtitled 'Be!' because each of the four plays will invite a range of emotions as varied as the textures of each of the plays. AAI's TNT3 urges its audience to *be moved* in Jean Anouilh's classic 'The Lark,' a theatrical reenactment of Joan of Arc's trial; *be happy* in the Bacharach-Neil Simon musical 'Promises, Promises'; *be electrified* in one of the most acclaimed adult black comedies in recent memory, Patrick Marber's 'Closer'; and *be provoked* in 'Ticket,' the original piece by yours truly that is currently in development."

BART Guingona, Raymond Bagatsing, Lara Fabregas, Chris Garcia and Michael Williams in Actor's Actors' "The Lark"

Maid of Orleans play

Jean Anouilh's classic take on the trial of Joan of Arc, "The Lark," opens in July 20 at the GSIS Theater and it stars gorgeous Lara Fabregas, dashing Raymond Bagatsing and an amazing cast of featured artists like Jamie Wilson, Myx VJ Ed Feist, Kate Fernandez, Chris Garcia, Jackie Castillejo, Debbie Enriquez, Gerrard Fabie, Chelu Marquez and Michael Williams. It will be followed by a musical at the Meralco Theater in October.

"Promises, Promises," with a book by Neil Simon and music by Burt Bacharach, is a hilarious throwback to the Austin Powers/Hugh Hefner groovy days of A-line miniskirts and bell-bottom pants. It's hilarious even considering the underlying pessimism of the age as evinced by the titles of the musical's hit songs, "I'll Never Fall in Love Again," "Promises, Promises," "Knowing When to Leave" and "Wanting Things." Menchu Lauchenco-Yulo and Michael Williams among others lend their luminous voices Bacharach's classic tunes.

The next play, a palpable West End and Broadway hit, is a dark adult comedy about modern relationships and it marks the return to the stage of Dindi Gallardo and Michael de Mesa. (The last play, "Ticket," is by me and I don't want to talk about it.)

The hard sell over with, let me tell you dear (potential) sponsor, why you should support the theater (and it need not be just AAI). In a recent briefing by advertising giant McCann-Erickson on its recent comprehensive survey on the youth, one of the findings was that the Filipino youth of today, when asked to take a stand on various moral issues such as abortion or premarital sex, most often answered, "It depends."

Now that could mean that cyberspace and the information age have opened their minds so that a certain amount of circumspection is influencing their decision-making. But it is more likely that because they are educated really, by the cut-to-cut editing of MTV and the channel-to-channel power of the TV's remote control, our 13- to 21-year-olds have acquired knowledge with vast breadth but little depth. Ask any one of them if they ever bother to read anything beyond the comics, the movie section, the sports section and perhaps the headlines (maybe including the first paragraph) plus the captions of the interesting (read: sexy) pictures in the major broadsheets, and chances are you will discover why they would rather read the tabloids which exist in order to cater to exactly that kind of intellectual flabbiness. While the laziness to read and see things beyond the surface is an educational challenge that's too large to combat by the theater alone, I've always contended that theater can and does help.

Theater is the most literary of the visual arts, although it was once called the queen of all arts because it employed so many other nonliterary arts and crafts in its creation. It is dependent on words, ideas and even silences to make a salient point. It is live therefore urgent and immediate. Unlike a concert, it doesn't revolve around personality and celebrity and, unlike cinema, you see what you choose to see (and sometimes work the interpretation in your head) rather than having the choice made for you by the director.

I propose that anyone who has gone through the intellectual rigor of literary analysis will be better equipped to formulate and defend considered opinions, sift though cable TV and discover the gems in the rubbish heap. Anyone who understands "Julius Caesar" can read the front and op-ed pages of today's broadsheets fearlessly and conclude that politicians, since the time of Shakespeare's reckoning, are an entirely predictable lot. Even the senseless crime of passion on the front page of the tabloid makes sense when one considers the perfectly understandable but utter irrationality of the jealousy of "Othello."

Dead theater

On the other hand, let me say that any kind of theater that does not engage its viewers intelligently, theater that does not require complicity and an imaginative investment from its audience and theater that does not make full use of its literary origins is dead theater. Like obsolete novels that have not withstood the test of time, dead theater deserves the mildew and decay that cause it to rot on some forgotten shelf.

Mario Vargas Llosa, the famous Peruvian writer and sometime presidential aspirant, says that "good literature, genuine literature is always subversive, unsubmissive, rebellious: A challenge to what exists... More than the need to sustain culture and enrich language, the greatest contribution of literature to human progress is perhaps to remind us that (without intending to, in the majority of cases) that the world is badly made... and that the world can me made more like the worlds that our imagination and language are able to create."

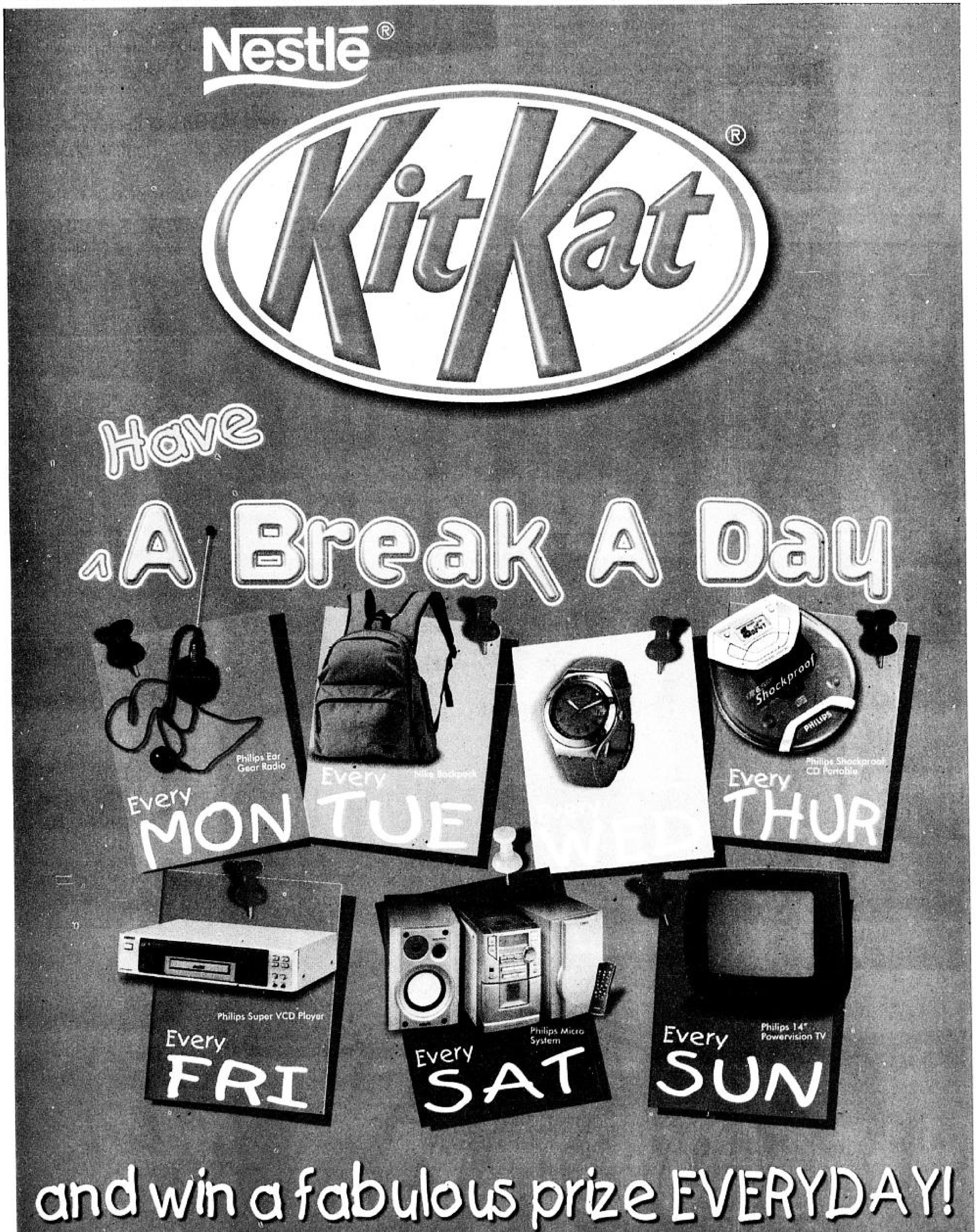
Maybe it's why we artists are so optimistic. We could be living hand to mouth, but we can take comfort in the knowledge that we exist in a world that makes sense.

Still, selling the idea of "live shows' in the age of Abu Sayyaf is an uphill battle as you can imagine. Without giving it a chance, many dismiss theater as "too heavy! Couldn't you put up a silly comedy? Something that will help us to escape the daily horrors of early third millennium Philippines." It does seem tempting to serve up doses of opiates to an audience so desperate for shallow escape. And if I for a moment believed that thoughtful theater and entertaining theater were two mutually exclusive ideas then I would give in in a snap.

Finally, have you ever noticed that some part of your own laughter in a movie house or theater is due to the laughter of others? Why do you think situation comedies need laugh tracks? They're really just there to confirm that it's right for you to laugh at that moment, making you feel like you belong to an order of shared universal complicities. The shared experience in a darkened theater where one cries or laughs with strangers comforts us with belonging. It's no wonder that the celebration of the mass had theatrical origins.

Effete? What could be braver than spanking the hand of the Catholic Church in "The Lark"? And then testing the limits of its tolerance in "Closer"? It's the intellectual equivalent of a Rambo rampage, except that the enemy is mediocrity and complacency. So there you have it, dear (potential) sponsor, it's a real opportunity to spend some money to gain some soul. Hope we see each other in that darkened hall. I guarantee it will be worth every peso you put in.

Sincerely,
BART GUINGONA



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1. All prizes are tax free.
2. All prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
3. Participating provinces/cities are divided into 8 areas- GMA, North Luzon, Central Luzon, South Luzon, East Visayas, West Visayas, North Mindanao and South Mindanao.
4. There will be 1 winner per day per area.
5. Prizes to be given away in a day per area are as follows:
Every Monday - Philips Ear Gear Radio
Every Tuesday - Nike Backpack
Every Wednesday - Swatch Irony
Every Thursday - Philips Shockproof CD Portable
Every Friday - Philips Super VCD Player
Every Saturday - Philips Micro System
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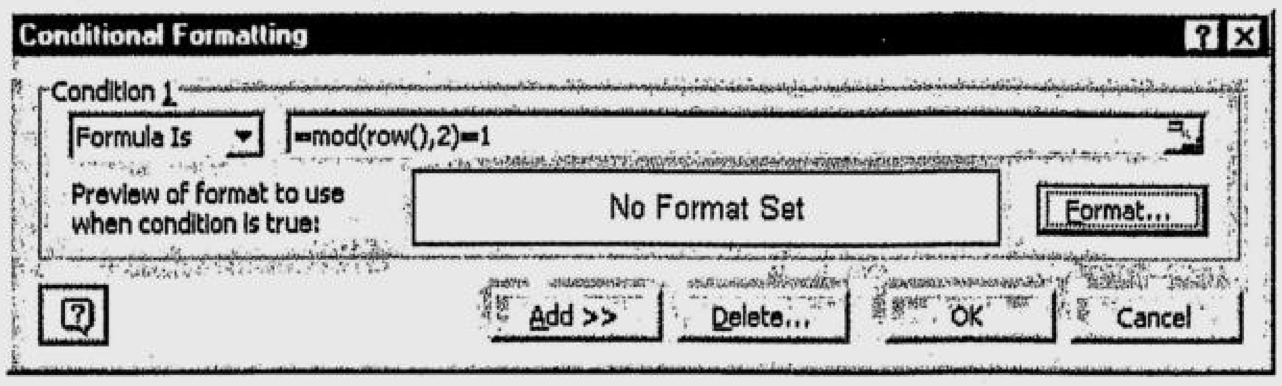
6. Entries can be dropped or sent to any of the following:
* "KITKAT Have A Break a Day" Drop boxes in nearest stores.
* Goya Inc. - 23 M. Tuazon St., Parang, Marikina City
* Nestle Philippines, Inc. - 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City
* Or any Goya/Nestle Office near you.
7. Winners for the week will be pre-drawn 7 days before actual draw week. Draws will be held simultaneously in Nestle Key Offices nationwide. Draw dates and cut-off dates in all areas are as follows:

Winner of:	Draw Date:	Cut-Off Dates:
Week 1 (August 6 - 12)	July 30	July 28
Week 2 (August 13 - 19)	August 6	August 4
Week 3 (August 20 - 26)	August 13	August 11
Week 4 (August 27 - 31)	August 20	August 20

8. The first valid entry drawn in an area will be declared as the winner.
9. A winner can only win once within a specific week. However, a person who already won a daily prize in a particular week can still win in the following week.
10. Three-fourths of the label must be intact to qualify as an entry.
11. All raffle promotion winners will be notified via telegram, which will indicate how and where they may claim their prizes. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the date of receipt of telegram shall be forfeited only upon approval of DOH-BFAD.
12. Winners must present any two valid identification papers among the following along with the original telegram of notice when claiming their prizes: Company ID, Birth Certificate, NBI Clearance, Passport, Marriage, Driver's license or SSS ID.
13. A winner for a particular region must be a resident of the area of coverage.
14. All prizes are transferable provided claimants present the following: Letter of authorization from winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of claimant and original telegram sent by Goya, Inc.
15. Prizes are subject to availability. Should a stated prize be unavailable for whatsoever reason, Goya, Inc. reserves the right to substitute the prize with another of similar value as deemed suitable by Goya, Inc.
16. Winners can claim their prizes at the nearest Nestle office on the date indicated in the telegram.
17. All winners will shoulder travel/transportation expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prizes.
18. An authorized representative from the Bureau of Food and Drugs will be present to supervise the raffle draw.
19. Goya, Inc.'s decision in concurrence with the DOH-BFAD is deemed final.
20. Goya Inc. reserves the right to publish the names and/or photographs of winners for advertising and publicity purposes. All winners will be notified by mail.
21. All employees of Goya, Inc., Nestle Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotion agencies, its packaging supplier, their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are not qualified to join.

Have a Break, Have a KIT KAT.®

INFOTECH
LEO MAGNO, Editor



Conditional Formatting

Condition 1

Formula Is =mod(row(),2)=1

Preview of format to use when condition is true: No Format Set

OFFICE XP, the latest software application suite of Microsoft, has its own built-in feature in Excel which allows you to shade alternate rows of your worksheet with the color of your choice. However, you can do the same with older versions of Excel by writing down a special formula in the conditional formatting bar.

Shading alternate rows in MS Excel

BY JERRY LIAO

POWERTIPS

YOU can shade rows in Microsoft Excel alternately to give each data more emphasis or simply to make it look different, and this can be done even if you're not using Office XP which has this feature built-in. Follow these steps:

(1) Open a new or existing worksheet you want to format.

(2) Select the entire range you want the format to be applied to.

(3) Choose "Format" then "Conditional Formatting" from the menu bar.

(4) On the first drop-down list, choose "Formula Is."

(5) Then in the adjoining text box, enter this formula: =mod(row(),2)=1. This formula tells Excel to format odd and even numbered rows differently.

(6) Click the "Format" button.

(7) Choose the "Pattern" tab.

(8) Select the shading or the color you want to use then click "OK."

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Solon backs law on IT education

Intel, Microsoft launch teacher training fund

BY ERWIN OLIVA

SENATOR-elect Francisco Pangilinan plans to introduce legislation that will provide special scholarships and incentives to information technology (IT) educators.

This is part of his vision of making the Philippines the "leading IT center" in Southeast Asia, which he shared during a forum hosted by the Thames International Business School on Friday.

The senator said that the proposed legislation also intends to increase the income of IT instructors to a level "comparable to that of their professional colleagues in the private industry."

"Our IT instructors are the unrecognized heroes that make possible the shift to a digital economy. Unfortunately, many lack the adequate support and the teacher training needed to make them successful in their mission," Pangilinan said.

The senator pointed out that "most IT instructors teaching in universities and colleges do not have master's degrees in information technology, and a large number do not have adequate experience about the very technologies they teach."

He said that the quality of IT education in the Philippines also cannot keep up with the growing demand for more sophisticated IT skills. All levels of education in the country should start including IT as a basic part of every subject or discipline, Pangilinan added.

"I shall champion the development of the Philippines as the lead-

SOLON/ p.F4

DotPH bares plans for dotPHone

BY ERWIN OLIVA

LOCAL domain name administrator DotPH could use other domains instead of the .PH to establish its dotPHone technology in the Philippines and worldwide.

The decision to use .PH over other domains, however, was a "more clever way" of marketing "optional, value-added" service that would allow Filipino mobile phone subscribers to interact with .PH websites, or vice-versa, according to Joel

DOTPH/p.F4

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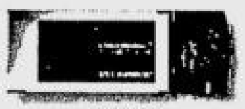

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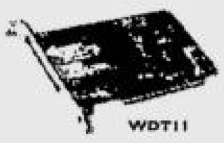

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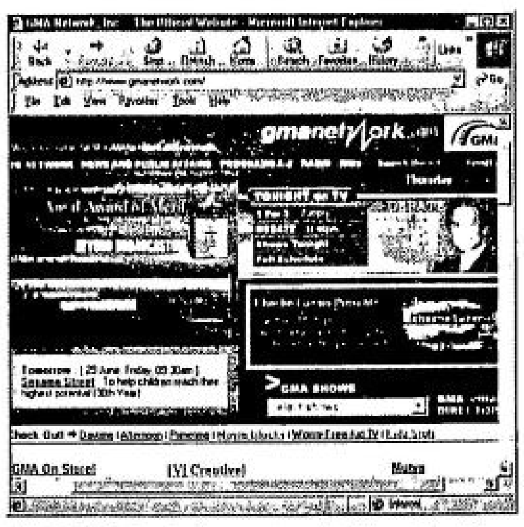


THE GMA-7 website, restored to its original form after the hacking incident. A hacker known as Eyestrain broke into the broadcast network's website and added personal messages on the upper left side of the site. This is the second high-profile hacking incident in June, followed by the hacking of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas site.

GMA-7 site vandalized by hacker

A HACKER known as "Eyestrain" vandalized GMA Network Inc.'s website (www.gmanetwork.com) Wednesday last week. The hacking incident happened around 6 p.m.

At first look, GMA-7's website appears to be normal, except for the upper-left side of the site, where several messages popped out at short intervals indicating that there was intrusion into the TV network's website.

One message read: "Thanks to the Elite Script Kiddie(s) of #oneball that this site has been compromise(d). Specially to Trime who is an elite script kiddie of all time."

A script kiddie is a hacker-wannabe who usually uses freely available tools for hacking from the Internet.

The hacker also left an interesting announcement which read: "Grand Eyeball June 30, 2001 Saturday, SM Annex West Edsa, sa Labas ng Bowling Alley. Gimik sa Sharkey's Timog."

The hacker was able to intrude into GMA-7's Web servers, which is currently hosted by InterdotNet Philippines, and changed a few source codes in the TV network's homepage. InterdotNet officials were unavailable for comment.

This is the second reported attack on a Filipino website in June, after the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas website was defaced earlier.

Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

Asia behind in CRM adoption, says expert

BY ERWIN OLIVA

ASIAN companies are two to three years behind in the use of customer relations management (CRM) applications, an expert admitted recently during an SAP conference on collaborative business and CRM.

Tim Tyler, co-author of "One to One Future: Building Relationships One Customer at a Time," said that the economic crisis in the region and the previous distraction caused by the Y2K bug has partly delayed investments in information technology applications such as CRM. Tyler is also chair and president of Peppers and Rogers Group Asia, a consulting firm specializing on "one-to-one" marketing.

CRM is now considered much in demand because companies nowadays aim to keep than increase their customer base. This is the same idea Pepper and Rogers have popularized over the years. The firm believes that the amount of business a company does with existing and profitable customers is faster and less expensive than recruiting new ones.

Implementation of CRM solutions, however, is not as simple as it may have seemed, according to Tyler. He said that most companies fail in efforts to implement CRM solutions despite the obvious returns of increasing customer loyalty.

"The estimates of current failure rates of CRM implementation go as high as 70 percent," he said during the SAP conference.

"Successful CRM implementations require coordinated, integrated application of critical technologies, people skill and customer-centric purposes," he added.

He also pointed out that successful CRM implementations require organizational change.

"These projects pose a very significant change management challenge that can only be met with a disciplined methodology that guides overall activity," he said.

Based on his research, Tyler believes that companies need to maintain customer loyalty by keeping prices affordable, giving good service, and sustaining communications using information technology.

CRM is one way to keep communications with customers personal. And the payoff, he said, happens in two ways: "First, a 5-percent retention rate increases the value of each customer anywhere from 75 to 90 percent. Second, the profitability of loyal customers increases each year," Tyler said.

So what's the best CRM product nowadays?

Tyler puts it this way: "That's a rather difficult question to answer. SAP, Siebel, Oracle are all reputable vendors here in Asia. To say which product is best really depends on what the customer requires."

Security hole in Microsoft server open to hack attacks

BY GERRY PLAZA

NEW hacker tools have already been developed to exploit a security hole in Microsoft Corp.'s Web server software, Internet Information Server 5.0. This leaves 6 million Internet sites around the world vulnerable to hacker attacks.

These new hacker tools—already widely circulated on mailing lists around the world—take advantage of a "huge" security hole of the IIS indexing component that potentially allows hackers to take complete control of a server.

Microsoft has already released a bulletin to system administrators around the world to apply a patch downloadable from the company's TechNet website. It said the flaw is evident not only in its current Windows 2000 release but also IIS running on Windows NT and the beta version of Windows XP. According to Microsoft, if the patch is not applied soon, no "meaningful" defense could stop hackers from controlling their servers.

The company added that a malicious hacker could "conduct a buffer overrun attack and execute code on the Web server" when the intruder establishes a Web session with the attacked system.

"Idq.dll (the file from which the security flaw stems) runs in the System context, so exploiting the vulnerability would give the attacker complete control of the server and allow him to take any desired action on it," the Microsoft advisory further said.

Such buffer overrun can happen even before any indexing feature is requested, the advisory stressed. Because of this, even if the Index Server or Indexing Service is not running, a hacker can gain control of the server with ease and abuse the vulnerability. A hacker only needs to establish a Web session and a "script mapping" of ".idq" or ".ida" files.

Microsoft emphasizes this is a "serious" vulnerability and urges systems administrators using IIS not to delay downloading and applying the patch.

HYPERLINK

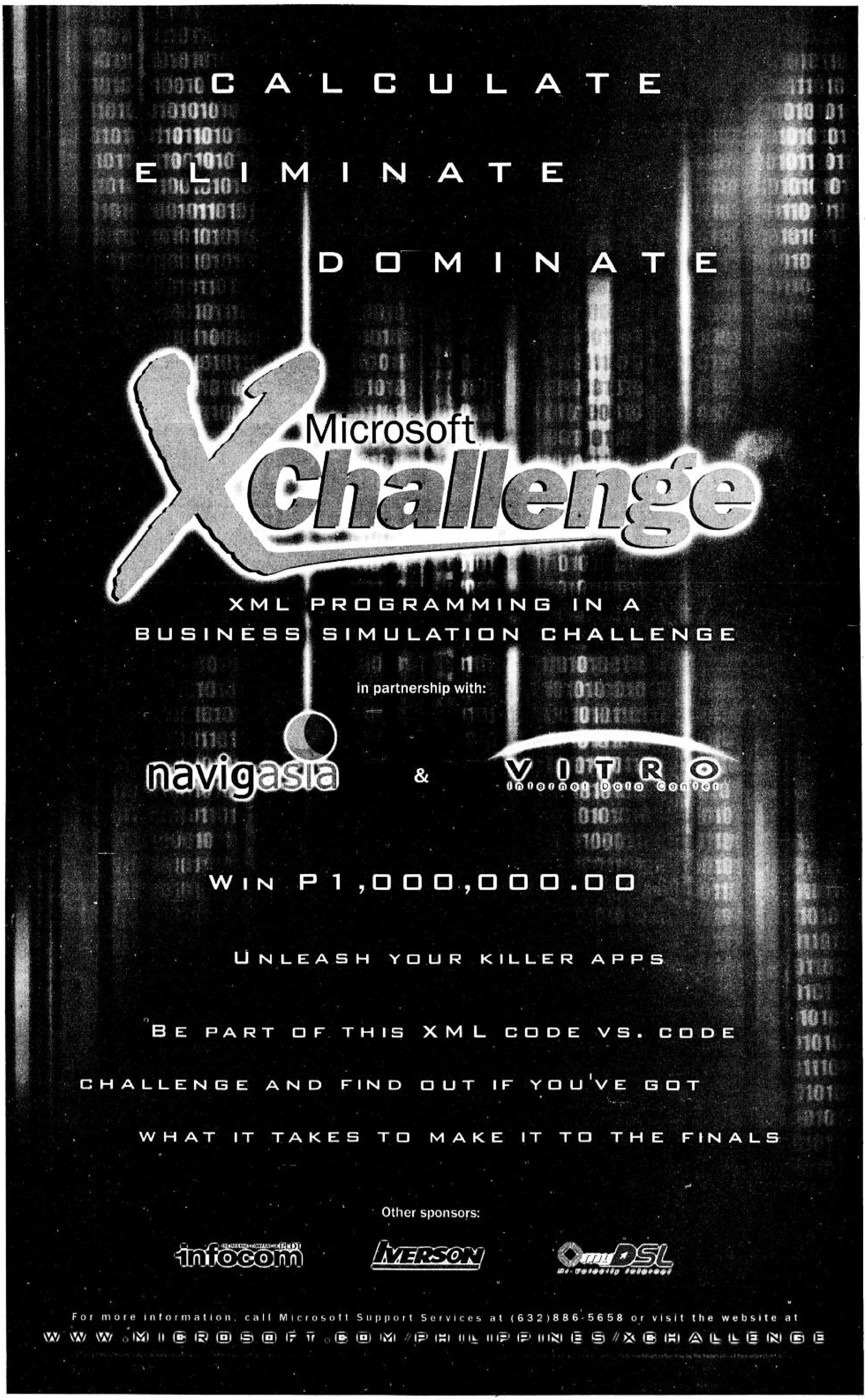
Need a patch for the IIS security hole? You can download it online from **www.microsoft.com/downloads.**

Compaq to unveil products, services

COMPAQ Computer Philippines Inc. will unveil a host of end-to-end products, services and solutions for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), giving them access to the Internet to start, grow and manage their business. The launch of these new products and services will be held on July 9, 2001 at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La.

The cornerstone of the event is a range of innovative products and solutions that offer ease of use, simplified installation and affordability at unlimited use of the the Internet. The range of products and solutions allow users to focus on the challenges of managing businesses more efficiently, giving the SMEs a competitive advantage in Internet-connected economy.

Some of the products and solutions to be launched are the new ProLiant ML330e server, the Compaq Deskpro Workstation AP230, the Armada 110S notebook, the Deskpro EX Series and the Deskpro SB series.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DotPH bares plans for dotPHone

(From page F1)

Disini, CEO of DotPH, in an interview with the INQUIRER.

"We could use another global top level domain. But I believe that what we're doing is promoting the Philippines as the SMS capital of the world," Disini said.

Disini is currently the administrator of the PH country code top-level domain (ccTLD).

He is also the president of the Domain Merchandising Services Inc., a non-profit foundation that was incorporated on June 15, 2000. The foundation's objective is to provide support as well as increase sales and marketing efforts to promote the PH domain in the Philippines.

For the past months, controversy has surrounded DotPH's supposed marketing of .PH as a global domain for phone companies. Several groups have expressed opposition to the idea saying that the .PH domain name stands for the Philippines and not phone companies.

The matter is now pending at the Department of Trade and Industry.

In a FAQ distributed to local reporters, the firm stressed that dotPhone "is not a domain that identifies telephone companies, WAP sites or cellular phone companies, but is a technology and service available to local GSM mobile phone subscribers and .PH domain owners."

"Subscribers would be assigned a PHone domain that links their identity (e.g., erwin.oliva.ph) to their mobile phone, an electronic cash account, or a mobile wallet," the FAQ said.

This feature would only be available on the flat .PH domain.

Disini said that mobile phone subscribers or owners of the .PH domain name have the option to avail of this "value-added" service at a cost that is affordable.

DotPH, however, has been hindered from moving forward because "issues with government" have clouded the company's situation, including the launch of the service in the Philippines. Disini clarified that there is no legal impediment for dotPH to launch its .Phone service.

Meanwhile, Emilio Avanceña, corporate communications officer of DotPH, believes that there should be no legal impediments in offering the dotPhone technology in the Philippines.

"We feel that the issue was clouded because it wasn't clear that there was a technology behind using .PH domain," Avanceña said. "Frankly, this controversy does not warrant redelegation (of ccTLD administration)."

"I think we should let the (local) market decide. If people won't support this service, then it won't fly," Disini said. "We can use a different domain but as much as we can, we don't want that."

He added: "ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) encourages innovation in the use of domain names.

HYPERLINKS

✔ Read the history and development of this story online at www.inq7.net by following these links:

'PH' case might test e-mail admissibility in courts
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2001/jun/25/inf_1-1.htm

Interdotnet chief files motion to dismiss $2-M libel case (June 20, 2001)
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2001/jun/20/inf_1-1.htm

DotPH CEO files $2-M libel case vs Contreras (June 8, 2001)
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2001/jun/08/inf_1-1.htm

Oracle launches new software delivery option

ORACLE Corp. has announced a new delivery option in its comprehensive "software as a service" business model called "Oracle E-Business Suite Online Any Place." This allows E-Business Suite Online service customers the ability to choose where they want to house their server hardware, while still realizing the benefits of an online application service.

Until today, customers who have chosen the Oracle E-Business Suite delivered as an online service had to buy hardware management services from Oracle as part of the package. Customers can choose to maintain their own server and house it either at their site or at another qualified location of their choice. The rest of the software administration and support is provided by Oracle.

As infrastructure providers for this new offering, Compaq and Sun Microsystems are making available the E-Business Suite Certified Configuration for the Oracle E-Business Suite Online Any Place option. These certified configurations include the Oracle E-Business Suite and underlying technology from Oracle preinstalled and pretested on preconfigured servers required to run the Oracle E-Business Suite Online Any Place. Customers can now buy the entire Oracle E-Business Suite in a standard package, utilizing these software and hardware certified configurations.

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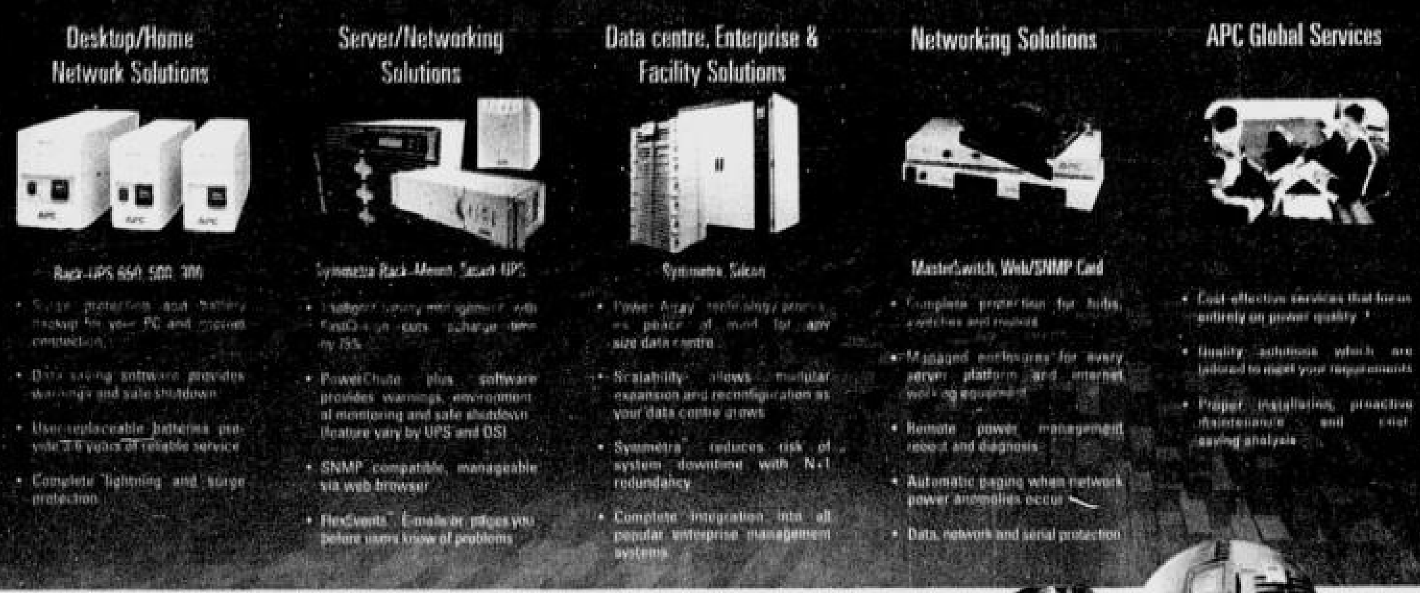

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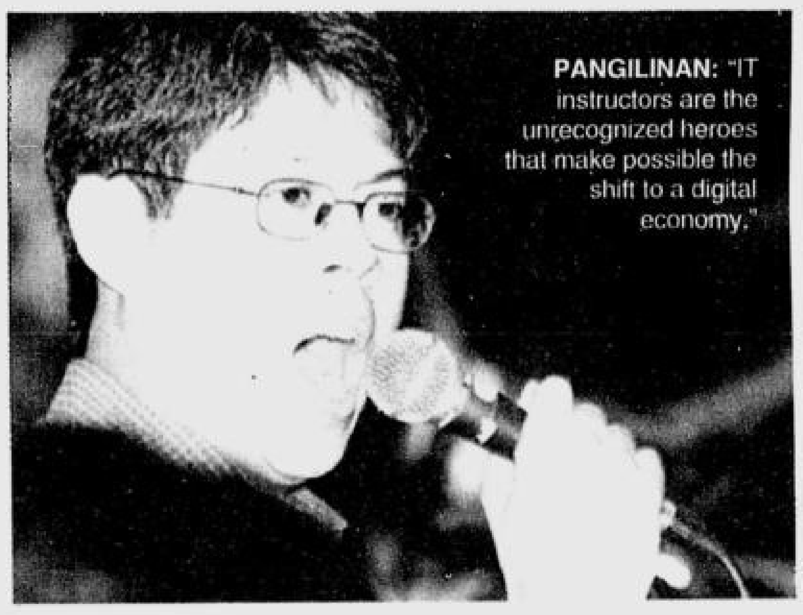

PANGILINAN: "IT instructors are the unrecognized heroes that make possible the shift to a digital economy."

Solon backs law . . .

(From page F1)

ing IT center in the Asean, challenging even Singapore and Malaysia," the senator said. He lamented, however, that the benefits of IT remain limited to the privileged few.

"Lest anyone among us be deceived, while most in our little circles have gained from the New Economy, many more have yet to partake of its bounty," Pangilinan said.

The senator also admitted that he himself is "young" in the world of IT.

"Let me now tell you a secret. Despite my attempts at becoming 'better versed' in what is to me a most interesting field, I do not understand enough," he said.

Meanwhile, about 20,000 public high school teachers stand to benefit from a $100-million global training initiative by Intel Corp. in collaboration with the government and software company Microsoft Corp.

Intel officials, however, declined to say how much was being allocated for the Philippines.

"We do not take the Philippines' chunk of the whole amount in dollar value. We measure it in terms of the number of teachers to be trained because amounts may vary from one country to another," said Ricky Banaag, country manager of Intel Philippines Microelectronics.

The project, dubbed "Intel Teach the Future" is aimed at training teachers on using information technology as a teaching tool. Intel has designed a curriculum that would allow teachers to dabble on the Internet and computer technology, and subsequently develop effective means of educating high school students.

There are about 500,000 public high school teachers in the Philippines.

Intel intends to implement this program with the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Education Culture and Sports, and the University of the Philippines National Institute for Science and Math Education Development.

The department has already identified 16 regional training agencies (RTAs) that would train 1,000 master teachers, who in turn, would train other teachers by 2002.

Incidentally, this project is part of the Department of Trade and Industry's effort to provide 20,000 computers to 1,000 public high schools in the country. The Japanese government has given a P600-million grant for this project.

Intel will provide the teachers' training aspect of the DTI project. The DOST will organize the RTAs and manage the pre-service teacher training; the DECS will choose the participating teachers and will monitor their training, and the State University will develop and review the curriculum.

"In today's world dominated by the Internet and e-business, it is important for students to learn technology and math skills in the classroom. However, technology in the classroom is most advantageous when teachers know how to use it effectively," said Intel Asia-Pacific vice president and general manager Christian Morales.

The program was launched worldwide last October 2000.

LEAGUE OF CORPORATE FOUNDATIONS
Corporate Social Responsibility Week 2001

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
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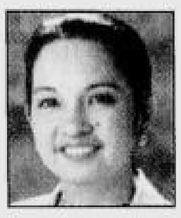

CONGRATULATIONS to the League of Corporate Foundations for spearheading this Second Annual Celebration of Corporate Social Responsibility Week.

I have always believed that the success of any government undertaking, particularly in the field of socio-economic endeavors, is better ensured with the cooperation of the corporate sector.

My administration is truly looking forward to the corporate sector's continuing, if not greater participation, in building the nation. Poverty alleviation, for one, cannot succeed without inputs from individuals and companies endowed with material benefits that can be shared with the less fortunate of our society. I am indeed glad that the members of the League of Corporate Foundations are fully committed to this end.

Corporate Social Responsibility Week is a fitting commemoration and reminder to all that there are corporations that are concerned and willing to share the knowledge, expertise, and resources to help make our country a more progressive and better place to live in. The theme, "Putting Volunteerism into Action," emphasizes the importance of volunteer action in the programs of the members of the League. The theme is all the more significant as the world celebrates the International Year of the Volunteers this year. Indeed, we are one with the global community in espousing how volunteers can make a difference in the lives of the underprivileged.

To the members of the League of Corporate Foundations, my sincerest appreciation for all your good efforts.

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

WITH great pride, the League of Corporate Foundations once again leads the nation's celebration of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Week. At a time when it has become most urgent for the more capable sectors of society to address the widespread problem of poverty, we believe that it is imperative for corporations to take action.

Members of the LCF represent over fifty of the country's leading corporations who have persisted, over the years and despite economic difficulties, to reach out to the less fortunate in our society through various programs addressing the following concerns: education, health, livelihood, arts and culture, the environment, and disaster response. Collectively, these programs amount to about one billion pesos each year.

In the years to come, members of the League, with the support of their mother corporations, are committed to continue with these programs. However, while it is obvious that the corporation's financial support is a major driver of its CSR commitment, another potential resource that is waiting to be tapped is its volunteer manpower.

This week's activities shall highlight the potential significance of volunteers' participation in corporations' social development projects as well as the value of employee volunteerism to the corporation. LCF members shall be sharing experiences in the field of volunteerism in the hope that other corporations take the cue and explore volunteerism as another expression of corporate citizenship.

To my fellow members in the League and to all who have volunteered their time and talent to the mounting of CSR Week, congratulations for a job well done!

MALcantara
MARIA CECILIA L. ALCANTARA
President, League of Corporate Foundations, Inc.
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- Corporate Network for Disaster Response *(Associate Member)*
- Del Monte Foundation, Inc.
- Drugmakers Laboratories Foundation, Inc.
- Far East Bank Foundation, Inc.
- Fort Bonifacio Development Foundation, Inc.
- Insular Life Foundation, Inc.
- Intel Philippines Manufacturing, Inc. *(Associate Member)*
- Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation, Inc.
- Johnson & Johnson Philippines, Inc. *(Associate Member)*
- La Tondeña Foundation, Inc.
- Landbank Countryside Development Foundation, Inc.
- Leslie Foundation, Inc.
- Marsman-Drysdale Foundation, Inc.
- Meralco Foundation, Inc.
- Metro Pacific Foundation, Inc.
- Metrobank Foundation, Inc.
- Mondragon Foundation, Inc.
- Nestlé Philippines, Inc. *(Associate Member)*
- Pacemco Development Foundation, Inc.
- Petron Foundation, Inc.
- Philam Foundation, Inc.
- Philippine Business for Social Progress
- Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. *(Associate Member)*
- Philippine Resins Industries, Inc. *(Associate Member)*
- Philippine Stock Exchange Foundation, Inc.
- Phinma Foundation, Inc.
- Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc.
- PLDT Foundation, Inc.
- RFM Foundation, Inc.
- San Miguel Foundation, Inc.
- Sarmiento Foundation, Inc.
- SGV Foundation, Inc.
- Sky Foundation, Inc.
- SM Foundation, Inc.
- Splash Foundation, Inc.
- Sunlife Philippines, Inc. *(Associate Member)*
- Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation, Inc.
- UCPB-CIIF Foundation, Inc.
- Villar Foundation, Inc.

Manifesto of Support

A Commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility and Volunteerism by the Business Community

The recent events in our nation have highlighted the need to pay greater and closer attention to the plight of our less fortunate countrymen.

Now, more than ever, it is imperative for those who have been blessed with more in life to reach out and help alleviate the dismal poverty situation.

Recognizing this, we, chief executives of the Philippines' leading corporations, together with the League of Corporate Foundations, therefore affirm and commit to the following:

First: We shall continue supporting Government's fight against poverty through the respective programs of our member organizations;

Second: These programs shall be specifically designed to improve the quality of life of the less fortunate Filipinos. Collectively, we shall continue to provide scholarships for the indigent youth, assist in efforts to modernize our schools, provide needed medical assistance to depressed areas of the country, encourage entrepreneurial endeavors for the underprivileged, respond to disasters brought about by natural calamities, promote environmental management towards sustainable development, and be sterling examples of corporate social responsibility in our areas of operation.

Third: We shall include opportunities for volunteer work in our social development programs and actively promote volunteerism for the benefit of the underprivileged, among our employees and associates.

Fourth: We call on the other leaders in the business community to make the same commitment.

So stand in solidarity, we in the business community.

Andres Soriano III
A. Soriano Corporation

Erramon I. Aboitiz
Aboitiz & Company, Inc.

Eugenio Lopez III
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation

Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala
Ayala Corporation

Manuel Q. Bengson
Ayala Corporation

Fernando Zobel de Ayala
Ayala Land

Francisco H. Licuanan III
Ayala Land

Mercedita Nolledo
Ayala Foundation, Inc.

Enrique A. Sobrepeña, Jr.
CAP Philippines

Peter Baker
Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines, Inc.

Jesus F. Celdran
Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc.

Saturnino G. Belen, Jr.
First Asia Venture Capital Inc.

Ricardo S. Pascua
Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation
Metro-Pacific Corporation

Gerardo C. Ablaza, Jr.
Globe Telecom

Vicente R. Ayllon
Insular Life Assurance Corporation

Felimon T. Berba, Jr.
Integrated Micro Electronics Inc.

Crescenciano D. Toledo
Johnson & Johnson Philippines

Margarito B. Teves
LandBank of the Philippines

Antonino T. Aquino
Manila Water Company

George M. Drysdale, Jr.
Marsman-Drysdale Group

Alejandro T. Escano
Meralco Foundation

Placido L. Mapa, Jr.
Metrobank Foundation, Inc.

Antonio S. Abacan, Jr.
Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company

Jose Antonio U. Gonzalez
Mondragon International Philippines

Jose L. Cortes, Jr.
Pacemco Development Foundation

Jose A. Syjuco, Jr.
Petron Corporation
Petron Foundation

Jose L. Cuisia, Jr.
Philamlife Insurance

Manuel V. Pangilinan
Philippine Business for Social Progress
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company

Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Itsuro Eguchi
Philippine Resins Industries, Inc.

Renato R. Montemayor
Philking, Inc.

Oscar Reyes
Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation

Jose S. Concepcion, Jr.
RFM Corporation

Cesar V. Purisima
SGV & Company

Carlos V. Tria
Sky Vision, Inc.

Jose T. Sio
SM Group of Companies

Rosalinda A. Hortaleza
Splash Manufacturing

Takeshi Fukuda
Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation

Jeronimo U. Kilayko
United Coconut Planters Bank

Rogelio M. Sarmiento
Vitarich Corporation

Susanne Y. Santos
Yuchengco Group of Companies
RCBC Savings

ABS-CBN FOUNDATION, INC.

A better world for our children

PROGRAMS:

BANTAY BATA 163
Providing child care and assistance to child abuse survivors

BANTAY KALIKASAN
Supporting environmental initiatives to create a better world for the Filipino child

E-MEDIA (Education through Multi-media)
Producing television and radio shows that aim to educate children and enable them to reach their full potential

BAYAN FOUNDATION INC.
Providing opportunities for socio-economic development for the underprivileged

tel. no: 924-4101 locals 3783; 3779
http://www.abs-cbn.com/foundation

> At ABS-CBN, our corporate responsibility remains to be of service to the Filipinos by providing information, entertainment and helping in any way we can.

– Eugenio L. Lopez III
Chairman & CEO, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

> Volunteerism at its best comes from the heart, flows unconditionally, inspired by a vision and does tremendous good for the giver and receiver.

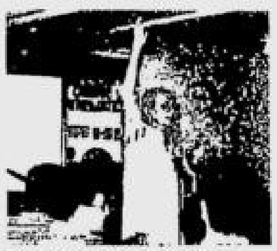
– Regina L. Lopez
Managing Director, ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.

It's our 10th year!

Bato Balani Foundation Inc (BBFI) commemorates a major chapter in its history in 2000. It marks its tenth year as it moves on to a bright new world in 2001.

The Foundation concentrated on enhancing the skills and aptitude of people in education through four program areas: Teacher Development, Institution Development, Scholarships, and Special Events.

Tulong sa Paaralan, Tulay sa Kaunlaran (TSP-TSK) book donation program to deserving schools nationwide



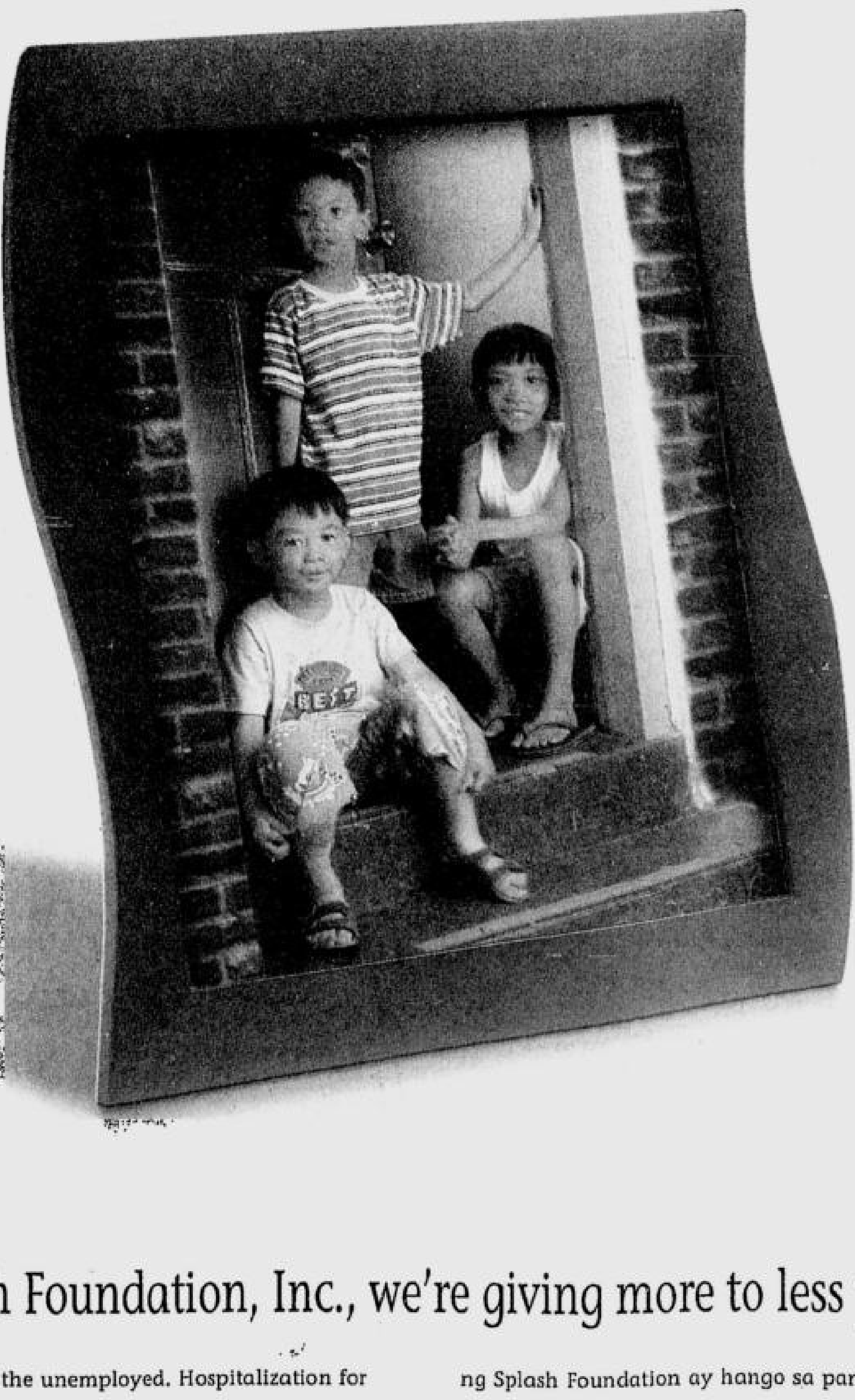
Teacher Training program through the Society of Educators for a Better Philippines and How to Be a Highly Effective Teacher

ACCA chess tournament and Damath competition, some of the various special events managed by the Foundation

Quality Teacher, a magazine for and about the dynamic teacher

A DECADE OF INVESTING IN QUALITY EDUCATION

BATO BALANI FOUNDATION INC
8/F PDCP Bank Centre, corner LP Leviste &
Herrera Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City,
1227 Philippines Tel. (632) 817-2120 Telefax
(632) 817-2136 E-mail: bbfmnl@info.com.ph



" Inyong maasahan,
mas magandang
kinabukasan."

At the Splash Foundation, Inc., we're giving more to less privileged Filipinos, because we are Filipino.

Livelihood programs for the unemployed. Hospitalization for needy children. Community medical outreach programs. Scholarships. Charity missions. Lahat ng pagkakawang-gawa ng Splash Foundation ay hango sa paniniwalang kung may dapat tulungan, unahin dapat ang ating kababayan. Kaya naman sa larangan ng tulungan, di pahuhuli ang Splash.

SPLASH
FOUNDATION INC.
A MEMBER OF THE SPLASH GROUP OF COMPANIES
Bagong Pilipino, Maka-Pilipino. Kayang Tumapat sa Buong Mundo.

Member: League of Corporate Foundations

KONTRA KALAT SA DAGAT
APRIL 15, 2000 - LIMAY & ORION, BATAAN
"Sama-sama para sa Kalikasan"

> "Volunteerism is a concept that seeks to tap the vast reservoir of goodness in us, that we may share what blessings we have to those who have a greater need for it."
>
> – ***Jose A. Syjuco, Jr.***
> *Chairman, Petron Corporation*

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MIGUEL ANGELO C. VILLA-REAL – Vice President for Operations
GLICERIA C. CUENCO – Vice President for Programs
MARILOU G. ERNI – Corporate Secretary
MA. ESTER A. FIDER – Treasurer
DULCE FESTIN-BAYBAY – Public Affairs Director
CELINA Q. AGAS – Executive Director

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Assistant Program Manager, Metrobank Foundation

HEALTH COMMITTEE
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CHAIR
Ramon Derige
Associate Director for Operations, Philippine Business for Social Progress

THE 'KONTRA KALAT SA DAGAT' STORY

A gathering of 82,000 volunteers

BY ALLAN VICTORINO

LAST February 23, 2001, Petron Foundation, Inc. was recognized by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines in its 36th Annual Anvil Awards with three Anvils. One of the three awards, an Anvil Award of Merit, was given in recognition of the Foundation's role in serving as "a catalyst for a sustainable coastal management program for the province of Bataan" for its Kontra Kalat sa Dagat. Among the project's biggest success indicators was its 82,000 volunteers.

In September 18, 1999, some 8,000 people from the towns of Limay and Mariveles in the Bataan province trooped to its shorelines and jointly undertook a coastal cleanup campaign. The occasion was the 13th International Coastal Cleanup Day, and the activity was called Kontra Kalat sa Dagat.

A few weeks before that, Petron Foundation sat down for talks with officials of the International Marinelife Alliance (IMA), which was undertaking the the 13th International Coastal Cleanup Day. Not long after, the Foundation, led by its Executive Director Malu G. Erni, was coordinating with Bataan Governor Leonardo B. Roman and other local officials to seek their support in attracting legislators, mayors and other officials for the coastal cleanup. It also contracted its Community Relations network for Bataan. On September 9, they met with IMA on cleanup mechanics. Guided by these mechanics, the Foundation set out to advocate coastal cleanup among its employees from the Head Office in Makati and the Bataan Refinery.

By September 13, local media and energy beat reporters were oriented and the next day, a memorandum of understanding was signed by all members of the cleanup team. On September 18, 1999, over a hundred Makati-based employees boarded several buses and made a 3-hour trek to meet their counterparts in Bataan and the thousands of other volunteer Bataeños.

In a span of just two years, Kontra Kalat sa Dagat has involved all 12 towns of Bataan. It has resulted in at least 45 kilometers of shorelines cleaned and some 175 tons of garbage collected. More significantly, it has encouraged the participation of around 82,000 volunteers – residents, students, fisherfolk, government officials, industry workers, and various groups in Bataan to take an active part in the project. And as a result, it has solidified the relationship among the government, the private sector, the local stakeholders, and the international community. It is a project of volunteers committed to once and for all cleaning up the environment.

At Petron, we utilize this time to help people have a better way of life.

Through Volunteerism in Action (VIA), hundreds of Petron employees find time every year to join hands with thousands of people from all sectors of society. They put in approximately 266,000 hours to participate in community programs in the areas of education, environment, health and social services.

In the year 2000 alone, Petron, through the Petron Foundation, undertook 14 such programs.

In Education, our Tulong Kaalaman Senters (TUKLAS) have given poor but deserving children access to better and more unique ways of learning. By providing these children with a wide range of books as well as by featuring storytelling sessions, the TUKLAS fosters in them the love of learning, intellectual growth, and the formation of values.

In Environment, our Puno ng Buhay and Kontra Kalat sa Dagat have succeeded not only in greening the environment and promoting effective waste management activities, but have spurred other stakeholders to embark on long-term efforts for environmental care.

In Health & Social Services, Petron's Lakbayanihan (medical and dental programs) regularly brought health care to various communities across the country. Our Lingap Kapwa also worked for quick and adequate relief for disaster victims, while Project J.O.Y. and Handog Kapwa bring glad tidings to underprivileged children and elderly folk every year.

Through VIA, we have found a channel for combining valuable resources with willingness to help, and for bringing these to those who truly need them. And with VIA, we have fostered what UN Secretary General Kofi Annan describes as the spirit of being of service to others: "At the heart of volunteerism are the ideals of service and solidarity and the belief that together, we can make the world a better place."

The willingness to spend 266,000 hours to make a difference in the lives of others. This is corporate citizenship. The Petron way.

PETRON

If you had
266,000 hours,
what would you do?
VIA
PETRON Volunteerism in Action
ANVIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
Kontra Kalat sa Dagat
Celebrating Earth Month/Day 2000
ANVIL AWARDS OF MERIT
Celebrating the United Nations
International Year of the Volunteer

PETRON FOUNDATION, INC.

GEORGE SK TY
CHAIRMAN

TOYOTA management led by its chairman, Dr. George Ty, exemplifies the volunteer spirit.

Putting volunteerism into action

BY CELINE R. MADAMBA

FERNANDO Zobel de Ayala leads the Ayala Group of Companies' involvement in the Habitat for Humanity Philippines projects to build homes for economically disadvantaged families through donations and volunteer labor and participation of the recipient families.

WHAT do Petron Corporation, Nestle Philippines, ABS-CBN, and Manila Water have in common? Well, aside from being respected corporations in the business community, they are among the few companies today that promote strong corporate volunteerism.

In the Philippines, the most admired companies invest time, resources and knowledge in initiatives that address the needs of their communities. This involvement stems from the companies' recognition that they are citizens and, therefore, stakeholders in society. While the manner in which companies choose to be involved can vary from the sharing of resources to outright cash donations, it all boils down to making their communities in particular, and society in general, better places to live, work and do business.

According to a paper by the League of Corporate Foundations, one of the best ways for a company to get involved is through corporate volunteerism. Through it, employees are encouraged to go beyond their usual duties to give their time, resources and expertise to various causes, often chosen from a range of opportunities provided by the company.

This kind of corporate social responsibility has benefited society in many ways and has unwittingly produced some interesting "bottom-line" benefits for companies.

Corporate Volunteerism in the Philippines

While corporate volunteerism has been in the Philippines for quite a while, it only started to gain prominence in the late 1990s when Habitat for Humanity launched the Jimmy Carter Work Program (JCWP). Through. this project, thousands of corporate employees from more than thirty companies joined other volunteers in building houses for the poor. More than 5,000 houses in over 25 sites were built by the end of the year 2000, providing shelter for hundreds of families in need.

A year later, in 1999, corporate volunteerism got another boost through Children's Hour, a fund-raising campaign spearheaded by 19 business and civil society leaders with Ayala Foundation and the Children and Youth Foundation of the Philippines. The campaign called on employees to donate an hour's worth of their earnings at the end of the year for the benefit of children and youth of the next millennium.

The campaign, which originated in the United Kingdom, received an overwhelming response in over 20 countries. In the Philippines, it mobilized more than 400 corporate donors and 84,000 individual contributors. By the first quarter of the year 2000, it raised more than P30 million for the benefit of 27 organizations, which address the educational, psycho-social and health needs of street children and victims of child labor, abuse and poverty.

Growing Importance of and Demand for Corporate Volunteerism

Given the tremendous impact of corporate volunteerism in the Philippines, it is not surprising to find a growing number of companies promoting it as an expression of corporate citizenship.

In fact, a study conducted by the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) among companies in Laguna as well as among PBSP-member companies indicates that a substantial number of corporate executives are becoming increasingly interested in exploring its potential.

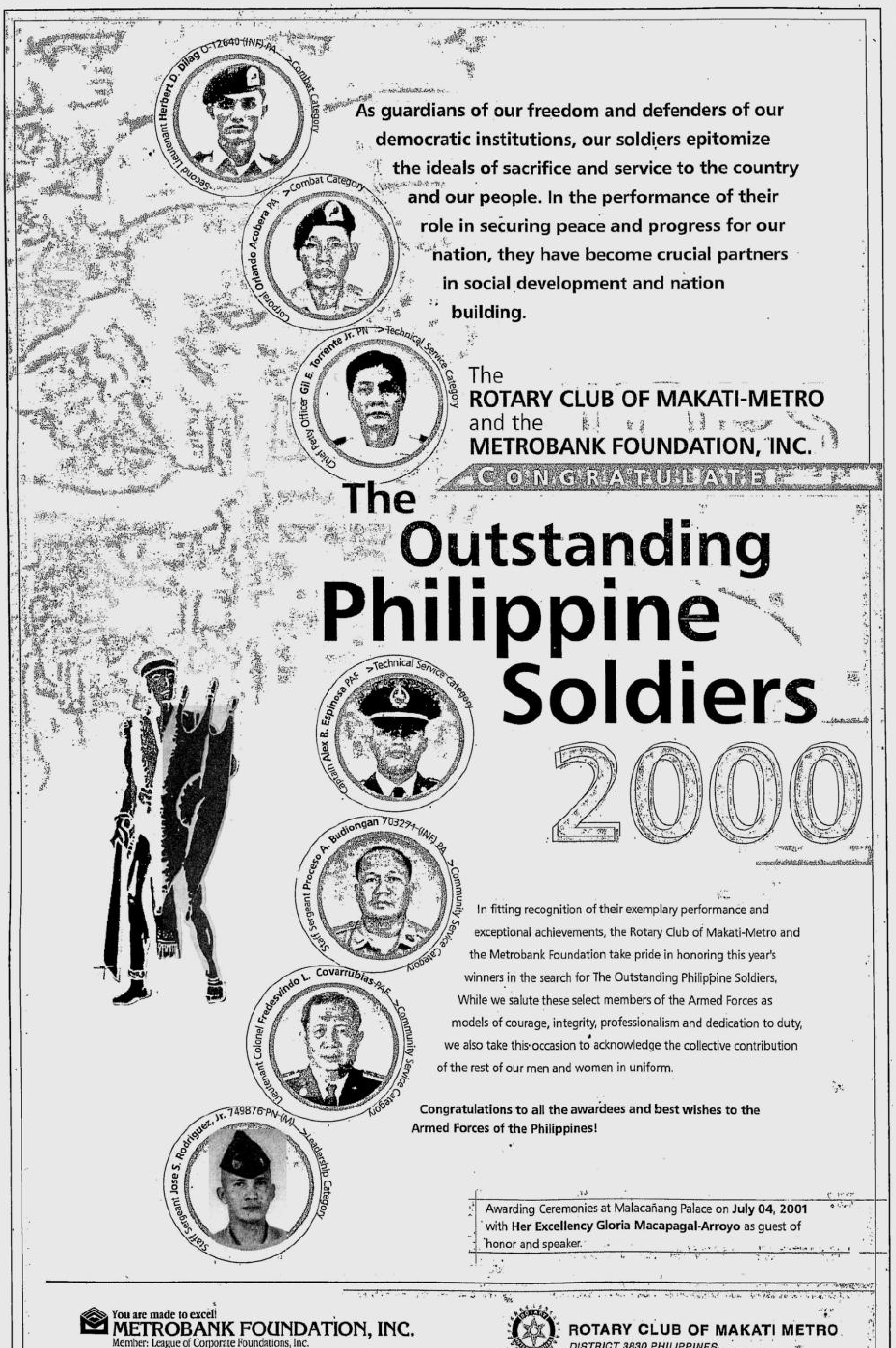
> "Do not shirk your civic duty. Never forget that you owe an obligation to something higher than your family, your company, your success. And that higher responsibility is to the larger interests of the Filipino nation of which you are part, wherever in the world your work might take you."
>
> *– Alfonso Y. Yuchengco*
> *Chairman,*
> *Yuchengco Group of Companies*

This concern for corporate volunteerism could not come at a better time. With the current economic crisis and dwindling resources available for social development work, many non-profit organizations are encountering difficulties in retaining skilled staff, attracting investments and implementing their development initiatives and objectives.

According to a paper by the League of Corporate Foundations, the infusion of corporate services into the non-profit sector can be a workable solution to this problem. While such a possibility remains "unexamined and untapped because there are virtually no endeavors to systematically link the needs of civil society groups with the various skills and resources offered by (corporate) volunteers," its potential should never be underestimated.

As recent political events in our country have shown, there is an urgent need for government, corporations and society to address the widespread problem of poverty. Corporate volunteerism, as seen in past social development initiatives, can be a very powerful tool for corporations to respond to this call.Promoting corporate volunteerism

PUTTING/ G9


Second Lieutenant Herbert D. Dilag O-12640 (INF) PA >Combat Category
Corporal Orlando Acobera PA >Combat Category
Chief Petty Officer Gil E. Torrente Jr. PN >Technical Service Category
Captain Alex R. Espinosa PAF >Technical Service Category
Staff Sergeant Proceso A. Budiongan 703271 (INF) PA >Community Service Category
Lieutenant Colonel Fredesvindo L. Covarrubias PAF >Community Service Category
Staff Sergeant Jose S. Rodriguez, Jr. 749876 PN (M) >Leadership Category

As guardians of our freedom and defenders of our democratic institutions, our soldiers epitomize the ideals of sacrifice and service to the country and our people. In the performance of their role in securing peace and progress for our nation, they have become crucial partners in social development and nation building.

The
ROTARY CLUB OF MAKATI-METRO
and the
METROBANK FOUNDATION, INC.
CONGRATULATE
The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers 2000

In fitting recognition of their exemplary performance and exceptional achievements, the Rotary Club of Makati-Metro and the Metrobank Foundation take pride in honoring this year's winners in the search for The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers, While we salute these select members of the Armed Forces as models of courage, integrity, professionalism and dedication to duty, we also take this occasion to acknowledge the collective contribution of the rest of our men and women in uniform.

Congratulations to all the awardees and best wishes to the Armed Forces of the Philippines!

Awarding Ceremonies at Malacañang Palace on **July 04, 2001** with **Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** as guest of honor and speaker.

You are made to excel!
METROBANK FOUNDATION, INC.
Member: League of Corporate Foundations, Inc.

ROTARY CLUB OF MAKATI METRO
DISTRICT 3830 PHILIPPINES

PACIFIC PLANS
PLATINUM PLANS PHIL., INC.
Grayline Plans, Inc

LIFE-GIVING RAYS OF THE SUN

A secure future. A sound investment. A life well planned and lived. These are the gifts of Sun Life Financial to millions of people around the world.

But there is more. The company also radiates its rays to areas beyond financial services, like the improvement of educational research and providing for people's health care, ensuring their social welfare, and enhancing their culture. This is a corporate social responsibility that Sun Life Financial carries out throughout the world.

In the Philippines, Sun Life Financial fulfills this corporate social responsibility through S.H.A.R.E.S. or Sharing Hope And Resources for Education & Social Services.

For 9 years now, S.H.A.R.E.S., through the Sun Life of Canada Actuarial Scholarship Grant, has been providing access to higher education in order to lift the professional standing of Filipino actuaries to a level comparable to those in advanced territories in the West and Asia Pacific. The Grant takes care of the tuition, required books, monthly miscellaneous expenses and examination fees in writing actuarial professional examinations under the Society of Actuaries Program (US) and the Actuarial Society of the Philippines.

Sun Life S.H.A.R.E.S. likewise supports the Father James F. Donelan Chair in Business Ethics at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) as part of the company-wide commitment to business ethics.

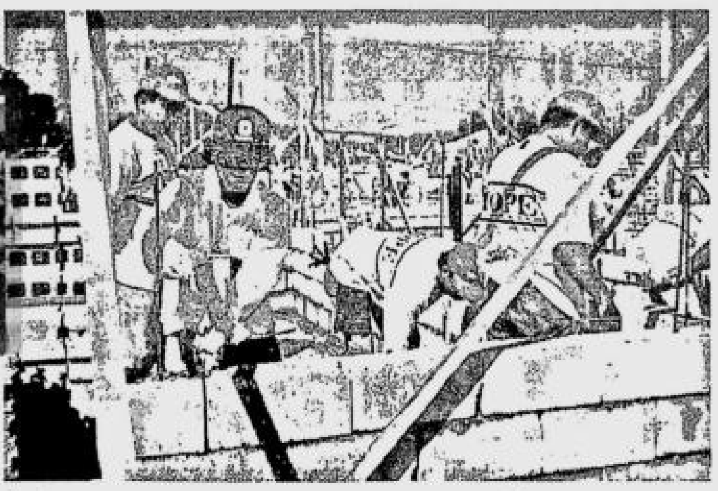
In the field of health and medical research, Sun Life S.H.A.R.E.S. has become a strong ally of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) with the annual nationwide blood donor campaign of employees and agents. The campaign generates thousands of units of blood for the Red Cross Blood Bank, benefiting those who are in dire need of blood in hospitals and calamity areas nationwide.

Furthermore, agents consistently extend financial assistance to children afflicted with Leukemia through Hallmark LIFE cards fund. They also work with various civic organizations that help and protect the youth, like the recent "Safe Water for a Healthy Child" program of the Rotary Club of San Juanico, which provided drinking fountains to schoolchildren.

Sun Life S.H.A.R.E.S. is a venue for the company and for employees and agents to help develop much needed community services throughout the country. These services help bring back the dignity in people's lives in the face of tragedies, like the El Niño in Mindanao and the garbage disaster in Payatas. These selfless souls have, time and again, breathed life into the word "volunteerism," and alleviated the lives of countless people as a result. The same spirit of volunteerism helped build hundreds of Habitat for Humanity homes for the Jimmy Carter Work Project '99 Program.

Sun Life of Canada
What a Difference the S... Makes!

Sun Life S.H.A.R.E.S. has been and continues to be an important part of the Sun Life Financial business in the Philippines and around the world. By enriching the lives of others, we enrich ourselves.



Member of the League of Corporate Foundations

2001 is the International Year of Volunteerism

Celebrating Corporate Social Responsibility Week
July 2-8, 2001

Sun
Life Financial

In the Philippines, Sun Life Financial is represented by Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc., for individual and group life insurance products; Sun Life Asset Management Co., Inc., for the management and distribution of Sun Life Prosperity Funds; and Sun Life Financial Plans, Inc., for pension and education plans.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

July 2, Monday

12 nn – 2 p.m. **OPENING CEREMONIES**
President Gloria-Macapagal-Arroyo is Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker with CEO of LCF members' mother corporations
Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace, Manila
Anchor Committee: LCF Board of Trustees (Coca-Cola Foundation, BPI Foundation, AY Foundation, Petron Foundation, Meralco Foundation, ABS-CBN Foundation)

July 2 to 8, Mon-Sun

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. **PHOTO EXHIBIT**
A Photo Exhibit showcasing the volunteer efforts of LCF member corporations and foundations
Activity Center, 2F Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
Anchor Committee: Arts and Culture (Metrobank Foundation, Coca-Cola Foundation, Philam Foundation, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Ayala Foundation, Fort Bonifacio Development Foundation, Philippine Business for Social Progress). SM Corporation, through SM Foundation donates use of exhibit venue.

July 3, Tuesday

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. **SMOKE-EMISSION TESTING**
Free Smoke Emission Testing of vehicles of LCF members and their mother corporations as a show of commitment to clean air and the Philippine Clean Air Act
Parking lot in front of Zuellig, Ayala Ave. Ext. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati
Anchor Committee: Environment (ABS-CBN Foundation, Petron Foundation, Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation)

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **RECYCLING DRIVE**
A recycling-cum-fund-raising drive by selling old newspapers to Philippine Daily Inquirer and PET bottles. Ceremonial turn-over of old newspapers at the Inquirer office at 3 p.m. Recycling drive will be from June 20 to July 8.
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave., Makati City
Anchor Committee: Environment (Philippine Daily Inquirer, ABS-CBN Foundation, Ayala Foundation, PBSP, Petron Foundation, Coca-Cola Foundation)

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **GIFT-GIVING TO PEDIATRIC PATIENTS**
Distribution of Vitasoft Baby Products to pediatric ward patients of East Avenue Medical Center, Quezon City by volunteers from Splash Manufacturing Inc.
East Avenue Medical Center, East Avenue, Quezon City
Anchor Committee: Health (Splash Foundation)

8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. **VOLUNTEERISM IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT: A CORPORATE PERSPECTIVE**
Symposium on managing volunteers to encourage corporations and corporate foundations to promote volunteer work among their employees for their employees' benefit.
American Chamber Hall, 2F Corinthian Plaza, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Anchor Committee: Corporate Network for Disaster Response in partnership with the American Chamber Foundation Philippines.

July 4, Wednesday

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. **BLOODLETTING DRIVE**
Bloodletting drive of employees of LCF foundations and the general public.
Sunlife Meeting Room, 11F Enterprise Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Anchor Committee: Health (Sunlife Philippines)

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. **BLOODLETTING DRIVE**
In partnership with doctors from San Juan de Dios Hospital volunteers from Meralco Foundation and scholars will donate blood to the Philippine National Red Cross.
Atrium, Meralco Foundation Institute Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Pasig City
Anchor Committee: (Meralco Foundation)

9 a.m. to 12 noon **CORPORATE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM LAUNCH**
Program launch to promote PBSP's intermediary role in advocating the practice of corporate volunteerism in the country.
Anchor Committee: Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)

July 5, Thursday

8 a.m. to 12 noon **CORPORATE VOLUNTEERISM: A SYMPOSIUM**
Top executives enjoin more companies to promote corporate volunteerism after a presentation of emerging trends and practices on corporate volunteerism of Philippine companies
Petron Megaplaza, 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Makati
Anchor Committee: Education (Sky Foundation, PBSP, Ayala Foundation, Bato Balani Foundation, Coca-Cola Foundation, Fort Bonifacio, Metrobank Foundation, Petron Foundation)

July 6, Friday

9 a.m. to 12 noon **FORUM ON CSR FOR SMALL-MEDIUM ENTERPRISE**
CSR among Small and Medium Enterprises, with focus on employee volunteerism.
University of Asia & the Pacific, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Anchor Committee: Entrepreneurial Development (International Visitors' Program Alumni Foundation, Sarmiento Foundation, Ayala Foundation)

3 p.m. to 5 p.m. **CANCER AWARENESS**
Lecture to promote cancer awareness on its prevention and other features
Philam Life Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Anchor Committee: Health (Andres Soriano Foundation, Philam Foundation)

SCHEDULE/ G7

Philam Foundation is committed to actively participate in nation-building and to ultimately contribute to the improvement of the quality of life for every Filipino

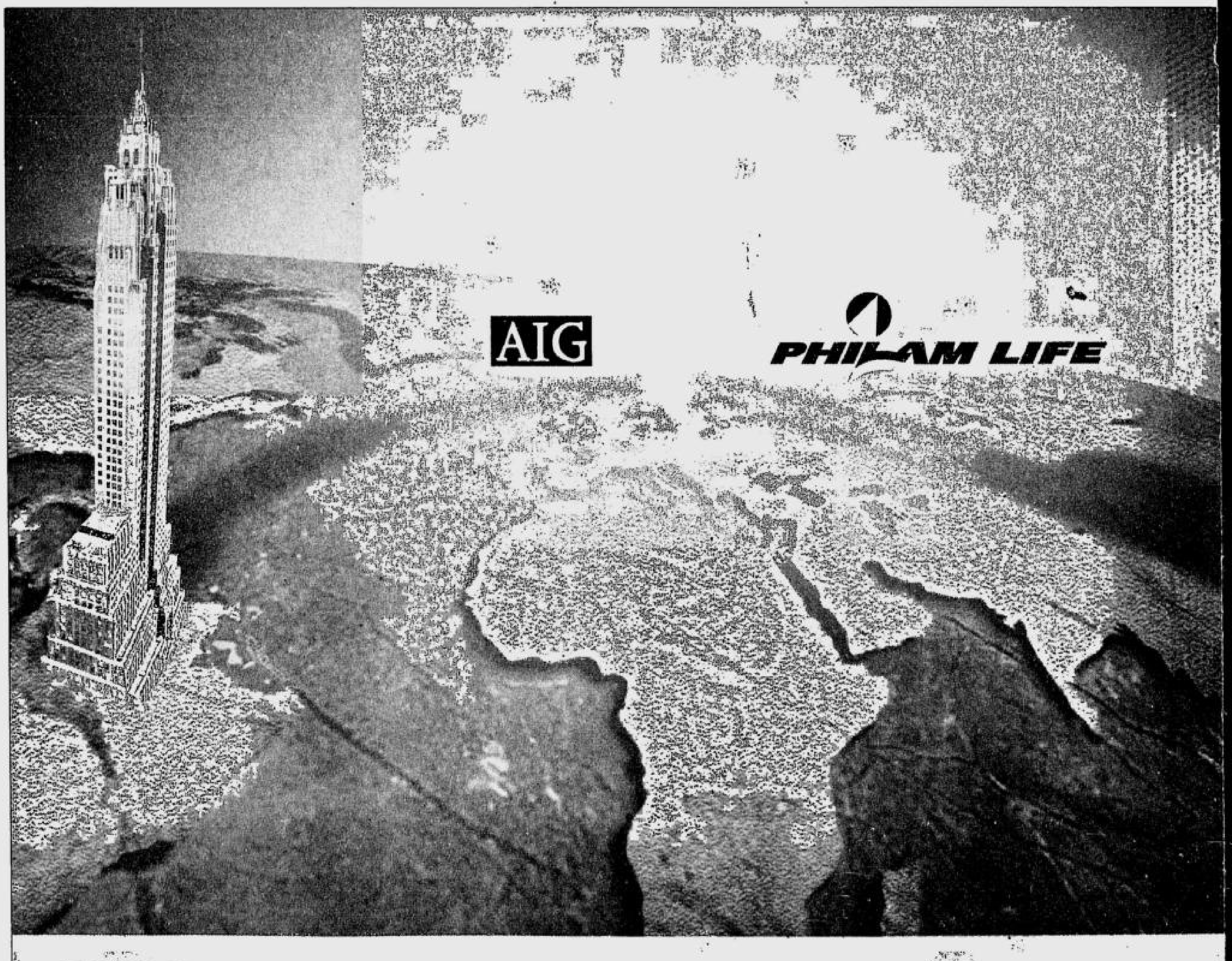
Philam Cares

With the help of Caritas Manila and Philam Care Health Systems, the Foundation provides free monthly medical services and medicines to indigent children in Pandacan, Malate, Paco and Ermita. Volunteer employees from the Philam group pitch in

Philamlife is the flagship of one of the largest financial services conglomerate in the country, the Philam Group of Companies which include PhilamCare, Philam Plans, Philam Savings Bank, Philam Insurance, Philam Funds, AIG Credit Card, Philam Properties, Philamlife Tower and Tower Club, among others.

Philamlife is, in turn, an affiliate of AIG,the leading US-based international insurance and financial services organization and the largest underwriter of commercial and personal insurance products in approximately 130 countries and jurisdiction throughout the world.

PHILAM FOUNDATION
Helping Filipinos live life to the FULLEST



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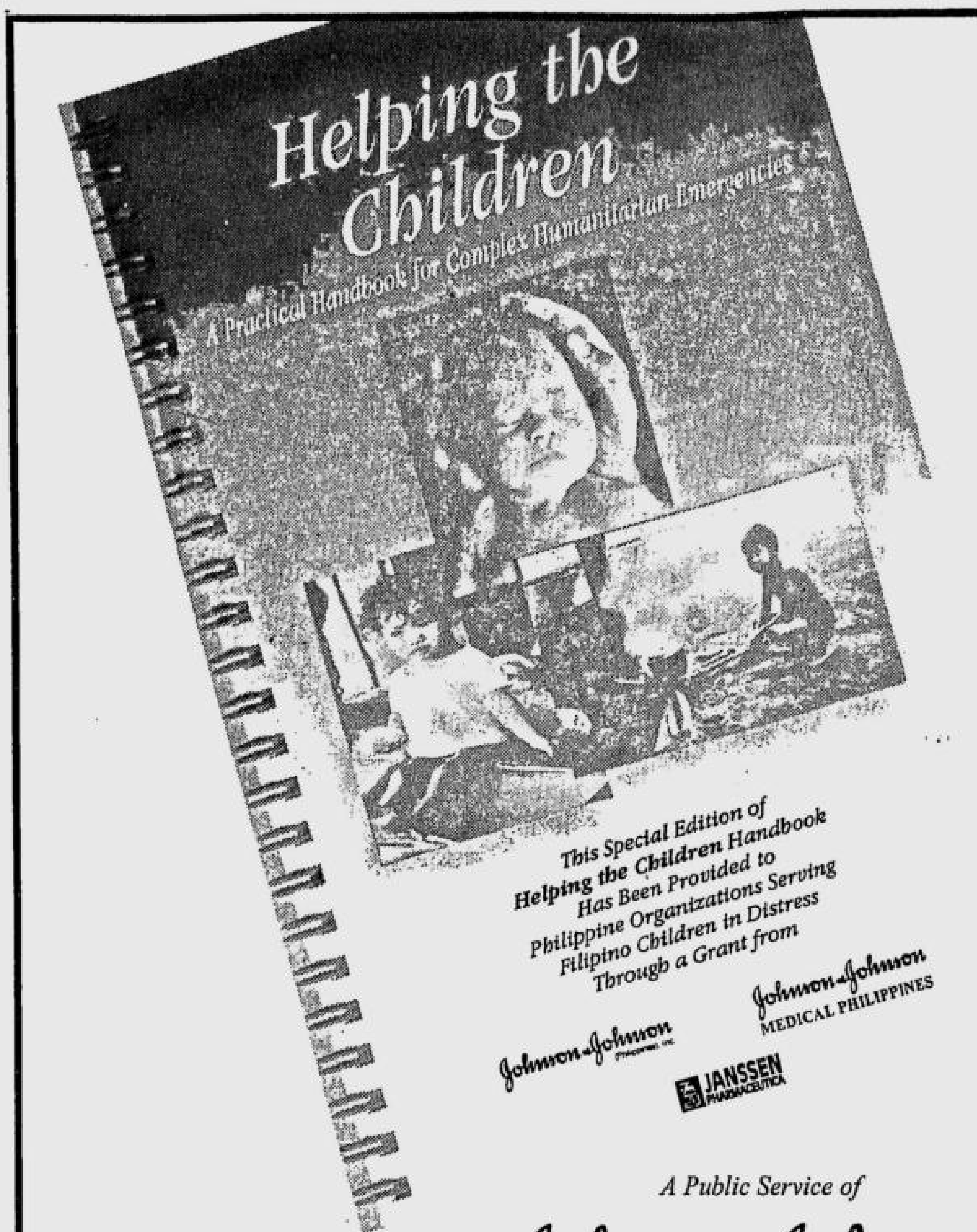
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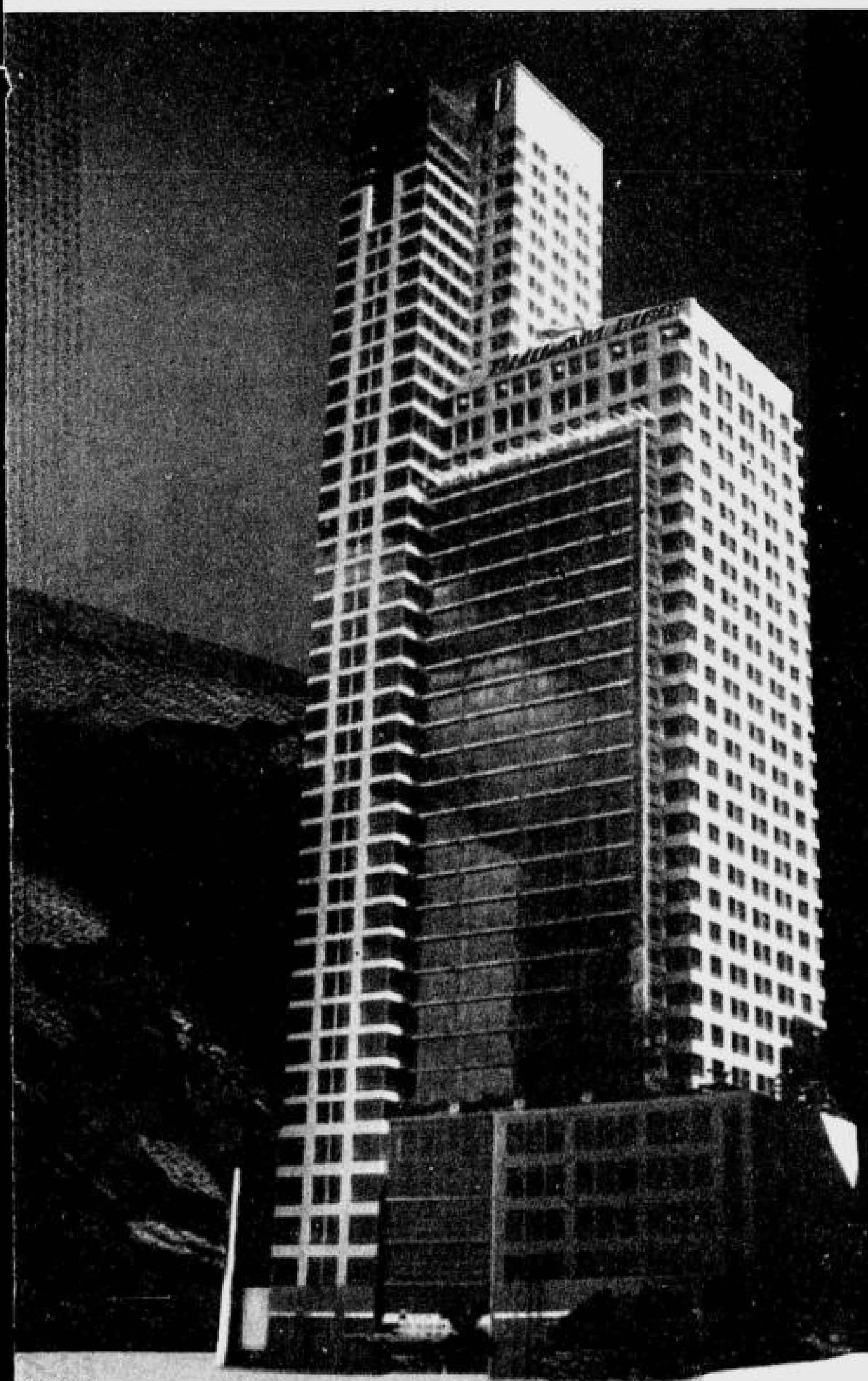
MERALCO Foundation volunteers at work

SM Foundation volunteer conducts medical visit

JOHNSON AND JOHNSON employees visit Parañaque orphanages to "touch a child, give a smile."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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

(From page G6)

July 7, Saturday

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	**MEDICAL MISSION** Regular quarterly Medical Mission to depressed areas in Sta. Rosa, Laguna *Sta. Rosa, Laguna* Anchor Committee: Health (Toyota Motors Phils. Foundation, Drugmakers Laboratories Foundation)
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	**MEDICAL MISSION** Regular Medical and Dental Mission to depressed areas Novaliches *Brgy. Talipapa, Novaliches, Q.C.* Anchor Committee: Health (Splash Foundation)
7 a.m. to 11 a.m.	**KONTRA KALAT SA DAGAT** Coastal cleanup drive in the province of Bataan as part of the five-year Bataan Integrated Coastal Management Program. *the towns of Abucay, Pilar and Orani in Bataan* Anchor Committee: Environment (Petron Foundation)
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	**TREE-PLANTING ACTIVITY** Meralco Foundation staff and scholars volunteer in a tree-planting activity n Talisay, Batangas *Meralco Foundation Professional Dev't. Center, Talisay, Batangas City* Meralco Foundation
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	**TREE-PLANTING ACTIVITY** Metrobank Foundation volunteers will conduct a tree-planting activity at the STa. Rosa Loop *Sta. Rosa Loop, Sta. Rosa, Laguna* Metrobank Foundation

July 8, Sunday

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	**TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY** Volunteers among LCF membership join a tree-planting activity at La Mesa Watershed and revisit the LCF adopted hectare during the First CSR Week held last year. *La Mesa Watershed, Brgy. Macabud, Rodriguez, Rizal* Anchor Committee: Environment (ABS-CBN Foundation, Andres Soriano Foundation, Ayala Foundation, Bato-Balani Foundation, Fort Bonifacio Foundation, Petron Foundation, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Toyota Motors Phils. Foundation, PBSP)

Employees volunteering: a new face of corporate citizenship

WHAT is the nature and extent of employee involvement in the country? What is the relationship between corporate social responsibility (CSR) and the company's employee involvement? How could employee involvement? How could employee involvement provide strategic value to CSR?

These were some of the questions that were tackled by a recent survey on employee involvement conducted by the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) Foundation, two of the leading advocates of corporate citizenship.

PBSP and AmCham with the support of the Center for the Study of Philanthropy of the City University of New York, initiated a study that paid particular attention on how their member companies were involving their employees in the various CSR efforts. The latter is recognized in western countries for its strategic value in pursuing corporate citizenship.

Out of 115 respondents, 62 companies affirmed that their employees were involved in various activities recognized by the company where employees volunteer or give off their time, skills and resources to the service of the company's internal and external communities. These could take the form of 1) employee giving, 2) employee-led fundraising, 3) outreach programs, and 4) sharing of expertise.

The survey revealed that employee giving was the most common practice with 74 percent of the respondents reporting that they have raised funds among themselves by "passing the hat" or through donation boxes. Outreach activities were done by 48 percent of the respondents while 31 percent led fundraising efforts from sources other than the employees.

There was an interesting debate on what constitutes employee giving: Some companies did not consider assistance to fellow workers in crisis as employee involvement. On the other hand, a number of companies argued that their workplace is their community and thus helping a fellow worker was already a form of involvement.

It was difficult to establish the size of employee activities due to lack of recording systems. Except for photo documentation, data were very limited. Most activities were rather sporadic and seasonal in nature and thus companies did not see the need to record them. Moreover, a number of companies argued that recording specific data about the activities like money raised, or time spent doing outreach somewhat diminishes the voluntary or philanthropic nature of the efforts.

Employees were most willing to support education. For 47 percent of the respondents, education ranked high in their list of priority areas together with provision of social services, followed by health assistance and disaster relief. For those who did not rank their choices (45 percent) the areas that got most of the assistance were: education, followed by disaster relief, environment projects, and civic/community affairs. The Christmas season appeared to be the time when employees felt most philanthropic.

Having a company policy on giving did not occur as a major factor in pursuing employee involvement activities. Sixty-five percent of the respondents said that they did not have a written policy. Of those that did have a policy (36 percent), very few actually communicate these to their various publics.

In terms of structural support, CEO's played a crucial role in the approval of their employee involvement activities. Employee committees or core groups and the HRD or an Employee Relations department also served as approving authorities for some. Implementation of the activities was done internally through employee circles (33 percent), HRD (30 percent) and CEO or managing director's office (11 percent).

Consequently, funding for employee involvement activities came directly from the company (55 percent), shouldered either by the budget of the HRD or from other units/program budgets. Twenty-four percent of the respondents said that they also engaged in fundraising activities to support their activities.

Despite its sporadic and seasonal nature, the environment for employee involvement appeared positive. Not only were these activities in place already for a period of time (present as long as the respondents remembered), respondents also saw the strategic value these gave to the company. Majority of the companies (76 percent) believed that such activities helped demonstrate their social responsibility. Moreover, companies saw how the activities contributed to building teamwork among its staff.

The study proved that contrary to previous perceptions, employee involvement in the country not only exists but thrives. When asked of when the need arises, employees are most willing to share their resources to those in need. A major challenge for companies however is to find a way of recording data about employee involvement activities without losing its voluntary nature. This data can be used to leverage corporate contributions or their CSR programs.

On the other hand, employee involvement programs present a wealth of opportunity for the non-profit sector particularly in tapping into the expertise of company employees. These are people who are constantly trained in the latest hardware and software skills. More than its financial resources, most companies recognize its people as their most important resource. They are most willing to help, just let them know how.

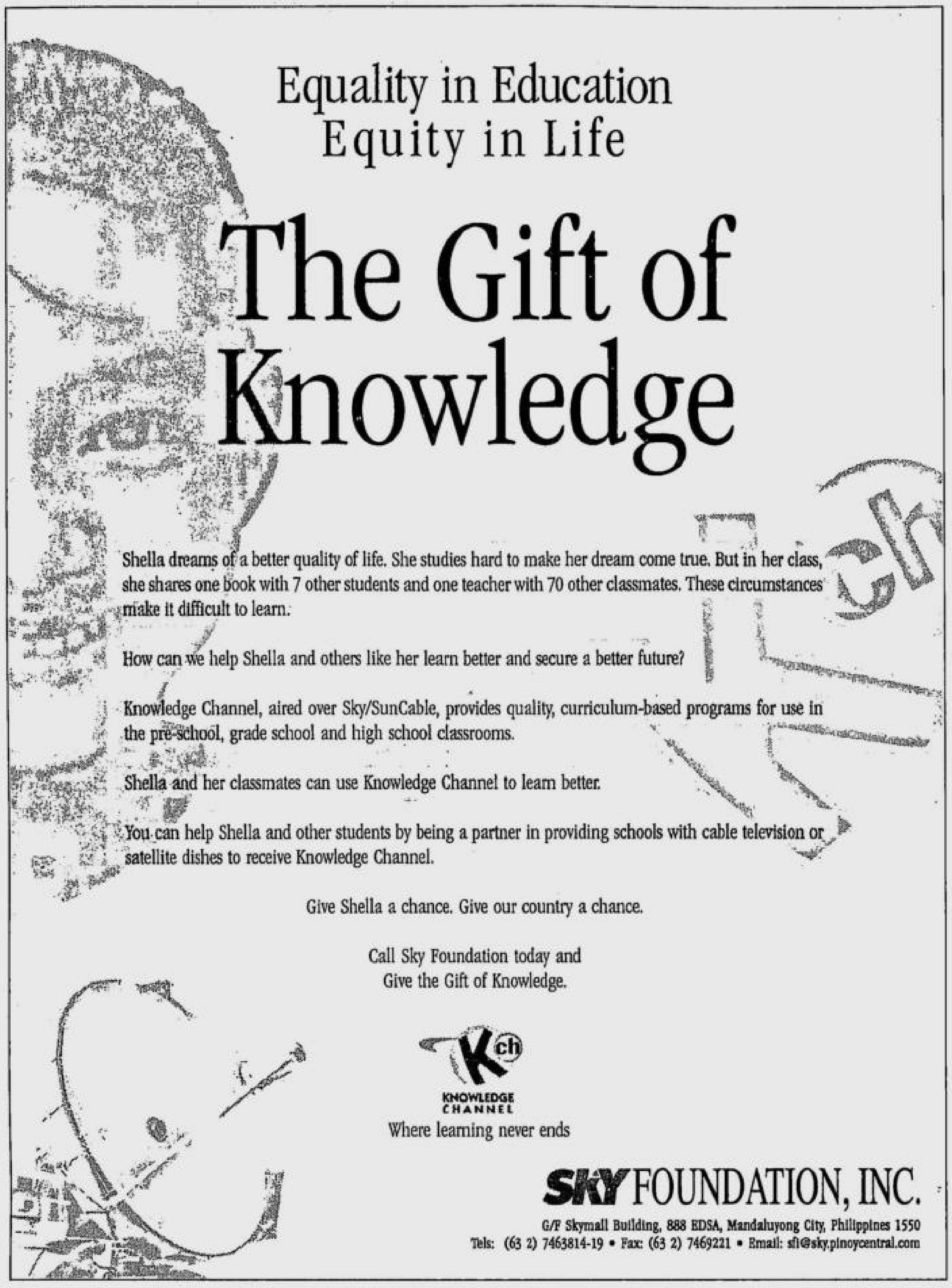
INQUIRER responds to the call

THE Philippine Daily Inquirer, true to its long-term commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR), actively encourages its employees to donate their time, talent and treasure just to put a roof over a stranger and his family's heads. And from time to time, the Inquirer wields its far-reaching influence to help preserve nature, or help make Filipinos bring fellow countrymen ravaged by war and calamities--natural or man-made--back to their feet.

In the past year alone, the Inquirer donated P6 million worth of print ads to support causes and organizations such as Tabang Mindanaw, Habitat for Humanity, and the World Wildlife Fund. For Tabang Mindanaw alone, Inquirer donated P2 million worth of print ads, which in turn helped raise P42 million in funds from Inquirer readers. The Inquirer is also actively involved with the World Wildlife Fund in the campaign to help protect marine wildlife. The Inquirer likewise donated print ads to help raise awareness and support for the projects of Habitat for Humanity Philippines. More than that, it mobilized its own workforce to actually help build houses for the poor. The nation's leading broadsheet is now in the middle of an intense campaign to recycle paper. Its ongoing newspaper drive is helping generate participation from all sectors of society. Furthermore, Inquirer is the only local broadsheet to use soy-based ink (which does not emit toxic fumes) on the paper.

Expect more of such from the Inquirer. The paper's commitment to CSR is strengthened by its own employees' initiatives to help needy communities in any way possible. That, more than anything else, ensures the Inquirer's positive impact not just by words and print but by actions as well.

UCPB's army of volunteers line up for tree-planting.



Equality in Education
Equity in Life

The Gift of Knowledge

Shella dreams of a better quality of life. She studies hard to make her dream come true. But in her class, she shares one book with 7 other students and one teacher with 70 other classmates. These circumstances make it difficult to learn.

How can we help Shella and others like her learn better and secure a better future?

Knowledge Channel, aired over Sky/SunCable, provides quality, curriculum-based programs for use in the pre-school, grade school and high school classrooms.

Shella and her classmates can use Knowledge Channel to learn better.

You can help Shella and other students by being a partner in providing schools with cable television or satellite dishes to receive Knowledge Channel.

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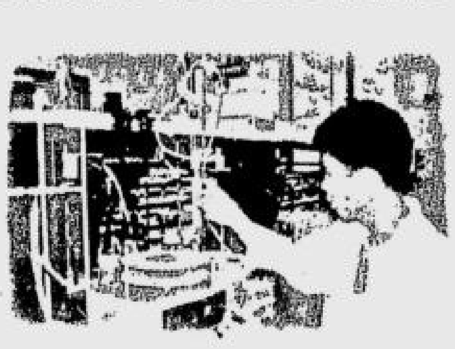

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PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES

BUILDING DREAMS

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- BPI SCIENCE AWARDS
- INFORMATION SYSTEMS STUDY PLAN
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MICRO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
- FINANCING ASSISTANCE LINE FOR NGOs AND COOPERATIVES

CORPORATE INVOLVEMENT
- MEDICAL MISSIONS
- SOCIAL HOUSING
- DISASTER RESPONSE PROGRAM
- COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM

OTHERS
- VALUE ENHANCEMENT
- CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

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Itaguyod ang Philippines 2000. Mag-impok sa Bangko.

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AY FOUNDATION, INC.
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It is the synergy of the Yuchengco Group of Companies that is the same driving force behind the AY FOUNDATION.

We fuel the Cycle of Giving.
Empowering the less privileged so that they too, may extend their giving hands to others.

Using synergized means, we give.
To uplift the quality of life - through scholarship grants, medical missions and the promotion of moral values.

This is AYF. The heart of a very solid synergy.

AY FOUNDATION, INC.
The Heart Of YGC

A FUSION OF CSR & EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERISM

A look at Insular Life's newest outreach projects

A RECENT study among Asian students showed that Filipino students aged 10-14, recorded the lowest scores in math and science. This was traced to the poor quality of science and technology education in public elementary and high school. To address this problem, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) introduced the "Adopt-A-School" program which encouraged private organizations to participate in improving the science and technology education in public elementary and high school. As a result, many other projects in support of the DECS program were introduced.

Following the transfer of Insular Life's headquarters to Alabang, Muntinlupa, the company undertook two such programs: Personal Computers for Public Schools (PCPS) and Cable-A-School which benefited Pedro Diaz High School-Buli Annex and Muntinlupa Itaas Elementary School, respectively.

Personal Computers for Public Schools

Pedro Diaz High School-Buli Annex in Muntinlupa City has a ready computer curriculum but the teachers are unable to teach the courses because of lack of computers. Insular Life helped the school realize a computer laboratory by donating 25 brand new PCs. to maximize the benefits of the laboratory, computer courses will be taught not only to the students but to the community's out-of-school youth, and unemployed adults as well. Professional computer education trainers will provide the teachers the necessary training to equip them with knowledge and skills needed in teaching a computer course.

To ensure the sustainability of the project, the school was encouraged to give a counterpart to the total cost of the project. The school solicited the help of the Office of Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi which contributed P150,000 to finance the wiring and maintenance of the computer laboratory. The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) provided technical assistance and monitoring of the short term and long term impact of the PCPS program on the students and teachers.

Cable-A-School

In another project that seeks to help elementary students appreciate the concepts of science and math through the use of dynamic visuals in classroom instruction, Insular Life supported the "Cable-A-School" program. Expert child educators believe that one way to help children learn faster is through the use of dynamic visuals or videos. In a pilot move, DECS proposed to elementary schools the use of DECS-prescribed "canned" educational programs in classroom instruction especially in math and science subjects. The videos or programs can be shown to each class and the teacher will reinforce the subject matter. The educational programs are shown on the Knowledge Channel aired over SkyCable, thus the need for cable access.

Some schools are now using this method but many public elementary schools are constrained due to lack of facilities such as TV sets and cable TV access. One such example is Muntinlupa Itaas Elementary School located at the New Bilibid Compound. It caters to about 2,000 elementary and preschool students with a majority coming from the poor sector. But despite its handicap of limited facilities and overcrowded classrooms, the school still posted the highest scores in the NEAT administered in their division. With the expressed willingness of the school faculty and officials to further improve their math and science curriculum through the use of the educational programs, Insular Life donated to the school three wide screen TV sets and sponsored its cabling. Sky Foundation of Sky Cable offered reduced rates for the cable access, as part of their participation in the "Cable-A-School" program. In a recent talk with the school teachers, they revealed that with the facilities more students can simultaneously watch the programs and students are finding it easier to understand complicated math and science concepts because of the visuals.

MANILA Water Company president, Antonio T. Aquino, leads his volunteer team in renewing a denuded part of La Mesa Watershed.

Putting . . .

(From page G4)

The League of Corporate Foundations, (LCF), a network of corporate foundations and corporations committed to social development in the country, has decided to make corporate volunteerism its central theme during the celebration of Corporate Social Responsibility Week from July 2-9, 2001. Its theme "CSR Week 2001: Putting Volunteerism Into Action" will be in recognition of the importance of corporate volunteerism in development and a tribute to 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers.

The weeklong celebration, which will begin with a grand opening ceremony in Malacañang with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, will be highlighted by a series of events consisting of a photo exhibit, roundtable discussions and conference-workshops on corporate volunteerism. Various projects involving corporate volunteers such as tree-planting, a newspaper and cans recycling drive, a coastal cleanup, medical and dental missions, and blood-letting will also be conducted.

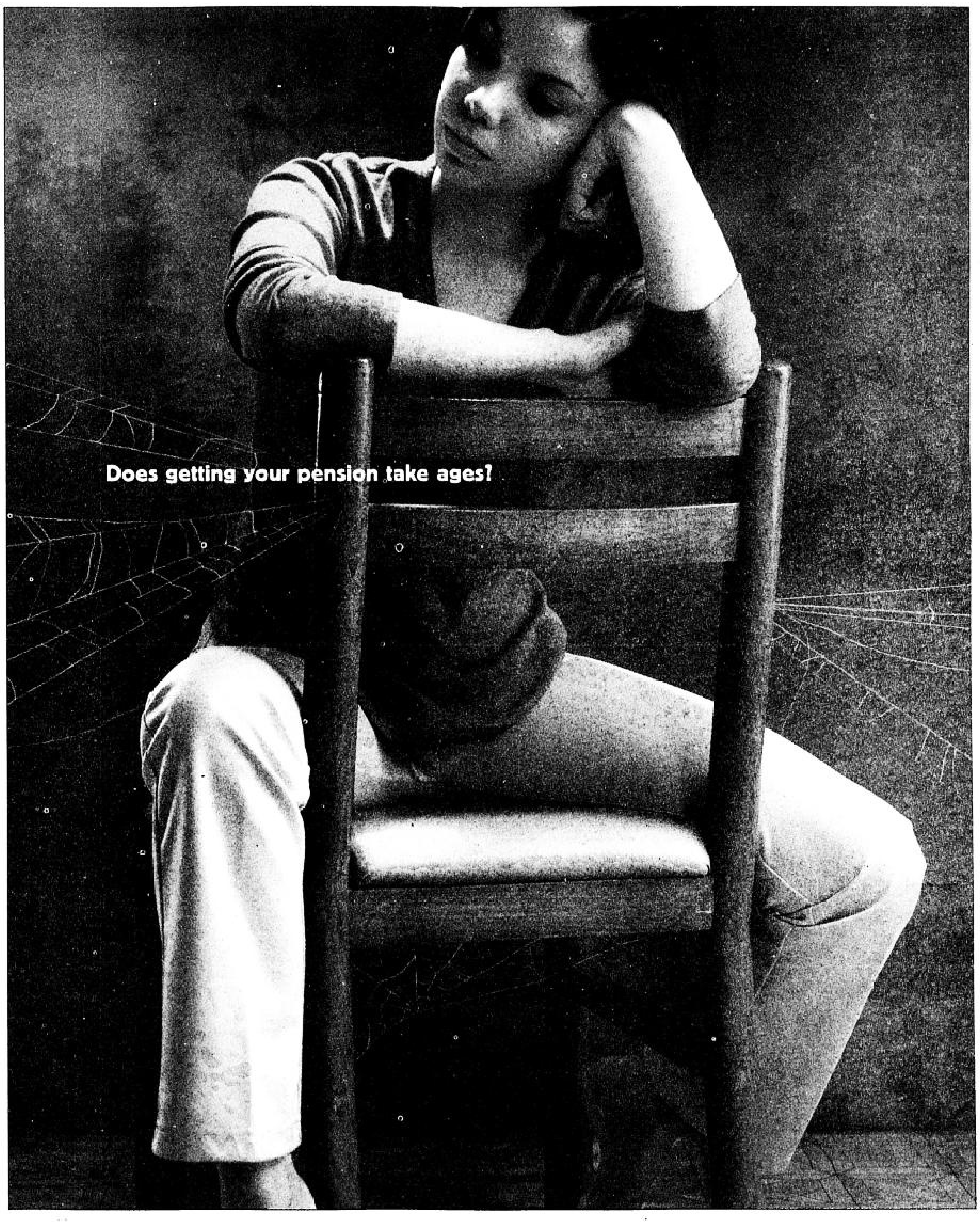
Through a series of discussions involving representatives from corporate and non-profit sectors, the LCF aims to explore the viability of corporate volunteerism in addressing poverty and the state of the nonprofit sector by creating venues for different groups to share and explore projects driven by corporate volunteers. By the end of the week, it hopes to develop a business argument for corporate volunteerism in the country, highlighting its impact on employees and their companies.

What are the Bottom Line Benefits of Corporate Volunteerism?

While corporate volunteerism is not as popular among companies as other forms of corporate citizenship such as donations and cause-related marketing, its impact on the bottom line has been quite noteworthy. Studies reveal that corporate volunteerism can help improve the image of a company, which helps employees feel better about their work and environment, thereby increasing loyalty and job performance, which, in turn, lead to customer satisfaction, sales and profitability.

According to a study sponsored by the Council on Foundations, a company's support of employee volunteerism directly influences employees' feelings about their jobs. Employees involved in company-sponsored community events, for instance, were 30 percent more likely to want to continue working for that company and help it succeed. Similarly, a 1999 study by Fleishman Hillard found that 87% of employees feel greater loyalty to socially responsible corporations.

Indeed, corporate volunteerism has its privileges. Not only does its help companies empower non-profit organizations to actualize their development objectives. It also promotes a spirit of volunteerism among employees, which generates a whole range of bottom line benefits that help companies, employees and society in general. And what, I dare say, can be better than that?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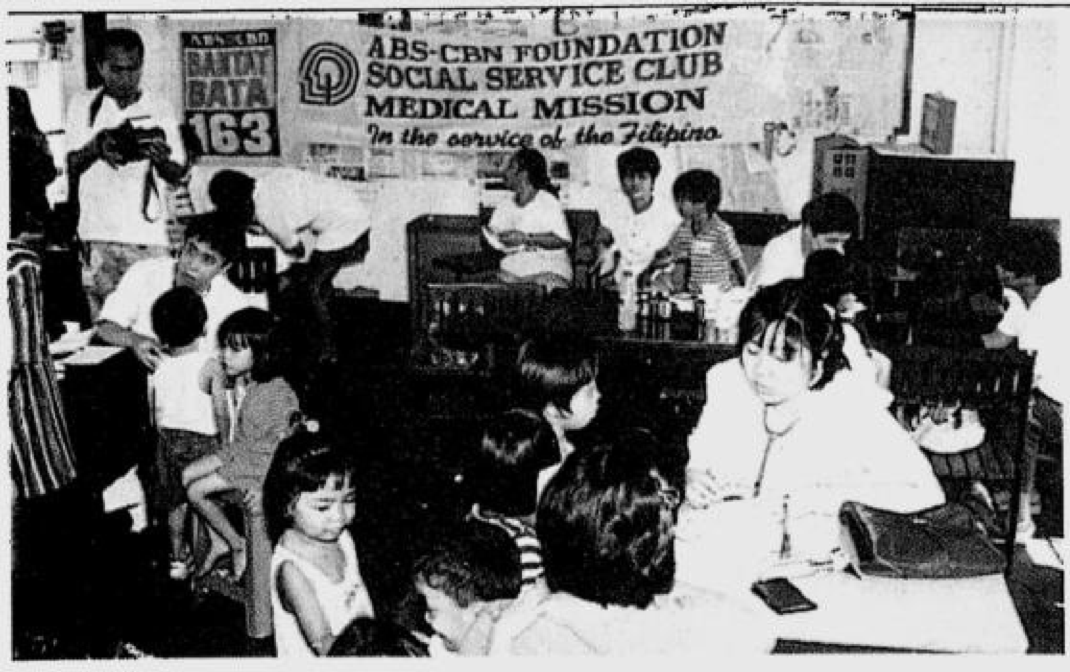


VOLUNTEERS of the ABS-CBN Foundation conduct a community outreach activity that includes a medical mission.

In support of corporate volunteerism

BY DULCE FESTIN-BAYBAY

"IS THERE a way I can volunteer at your foundation?"

This is a question Gina Lopez, managing director of ABS-CBN Foundation, often receives at the office from housewives, students, and even young professionals wishing to do some time with abused children of Bantay Bata 163, helping disaster relief operations by repacking donated goods at our annex building, or just by assisting in our medical and dental outreach projects.

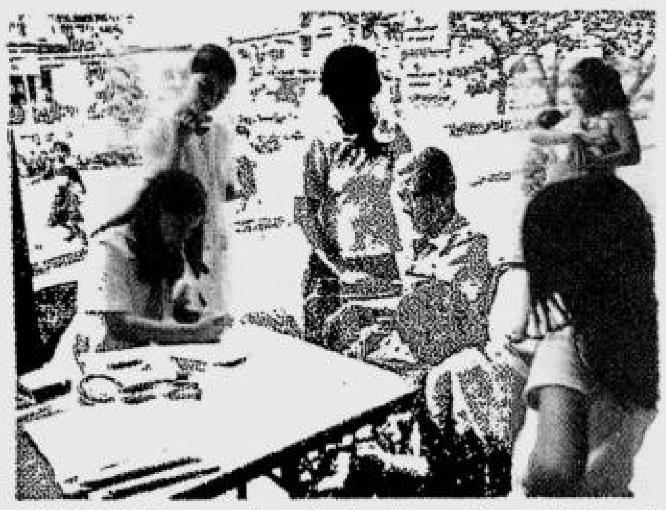
Her answer is always yes because somehow there is always that need in our programs for extra hands.

The Children's Home of Bantay Bata 163, for example, welcomes volunteers who wish to just read books to the rescued children or just hug or embrace them. We have one baby who will automatically reach out for anyone willing to embrace or hug her. When the visitor has to leave, the yearning need in that baby's eyes lingers on. And whenever the Bantay Bata 163 team goes out on community outreach work, volunteers are always needed in their advocacy campaign, as well as fundraising activities.

For Bantay Kalikasan, the environmental arm of the Foundation, we can always use volunteers to accompany our Bantay Usok team who go around testing vehicles for smoke emission. We are also in the course of replanting the La Mesa Watershed so volunteers are always needed here.

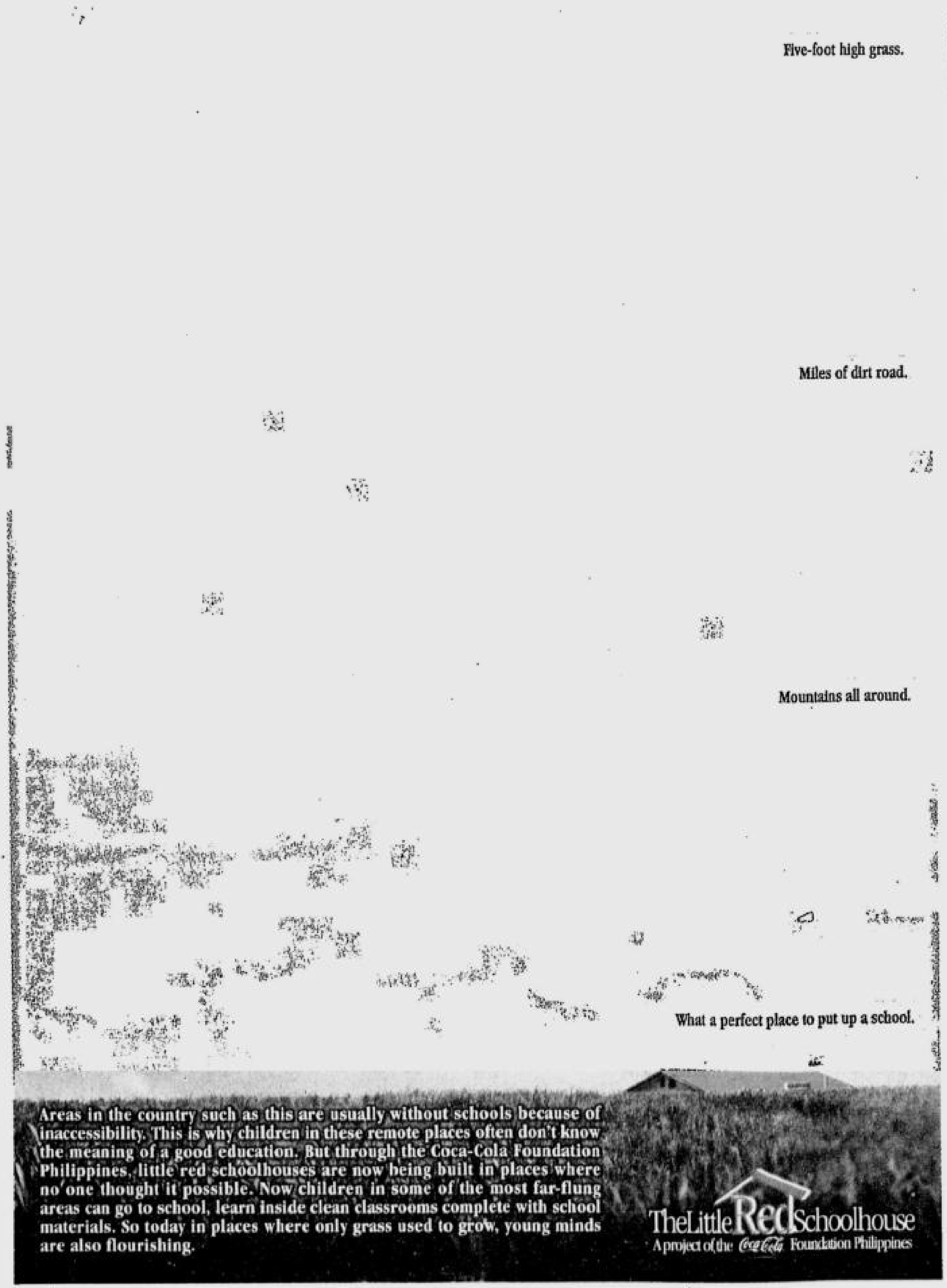
A twenty-four hour operation of the foundation is the Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Unit. Here, volunteers man the telephone at all times ready to receive calls for assistance from victims of natural or manmade disasters like fires, floods, earthquakes and typhoons. And whenever disaster strikes,our volunteers are quick in responding simply because we have already established a system of aiding and extending help at the quickest possible time.

Corporate volunteerism can therefore extend to those who would want to assist or lend an extra hand even outside of the corporate milieu. Its just a matter of finding the right venue and the right cause to help.



AN ELDERLY man gets medical assistance from volunteers of the Philam Care medical outreach project.

IN LINE with the company's health and welfare program, CCBPI-Zamboanga Plant held a blood-letting activity at the Plant conference room on April 3, 2000. Local Philippine National Red Cross staff administered the activity to Zamboanga Plant employees who voluntarily donated their blood.


Five-foot high grass.
Miles of dirt road.
Mountains all around.
What a perfect place to put up a school.
TheLittleRedSchoolhouse
A project of the Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines

Areas in the country such as this are usually without schools because of inaccessibility. This is why children in these remote places often don't know the meaning of a good education. But through the Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, little red schoolhouses are now being built in places where no one thought it possible. Now children in some of the most far-flung areas can go to school, learn inside clean classrooms complete with school materials. So today in places where only grass used to grow, young minds are also flourishing.

New system makes sharing digital pictures as simple as pressing a button

WITH the slogan "you press the button, we do the rest," George Eastman put the first easy-to-use camera into the hands of consumers more than 100 years ago. By doing so, he made taking pictures easy and accessible to nearly everyone. Through the years, Kodak has continued that tradition, leading the new way with an abundance of new products and processes which have made photography simpler, more useful and more enjoyable.

A century later, information technology and images are converging in powerful new ways and Kodak is still delivering cutting-edge products to bring digital photography to the masses, while making it easier than ever for people to take and share life's special moments with pictures. The essence of George Eastman's vision continues in the new Kodak EasyShare system.

The Kodak EasyShare system demonstrates Kodak's commitment to producing devices which are always networked, always on and always ready to use. It also represents the latest in a string of innovative products from Kodak, including the new mc3, a pocket-sized multimedia device which combines digital video, an MP3 player and a digital still camera, as well as the PalmPix cameras, accessories which transform Palm organizers into color digital cameras.

Unlike traditional photography where technology ends when consumers receive their pictures, digital photography begins with the picture. Digital photography expands the use of the images in communication and encompasses new ways to capture, store, modify and electronically send pictures. With the Kodak Camera Dock, Kodak is able to connect devices such as digital cameras to its leading networked infrastructure, media and services providing consumers with all the tools they need for taking, sharing and printing pictures—all with incomparable ease of use.

Through the development of the EasyShare system, Kodak continues to deliver the benefits of digital photography to mainstream consumers via new technologies and compelling, user-friendly solutions. Innovations such as the EasyShare system make it easier for consumers to get the pictures they want, when they want them. No other company knows more, does more or makes more possible with pictures than Kodak.

You press the button, Kodak does the rest. With the integrated EasyShare system, a consumer simply takes pictures, puts the DX3500 or DX3600 Zoom camera on the camera dock and touches the button. The device automatically uploads all the pictures to a personal computer and recharges the camera's battery pack. Images can then be immediately enhanced, printed or e-mailed. The dock even provides the option to automatically delete all the pictures from the camera after the upload – readying the camera for more picture-taking. Once uploaded to the computer, digital images can easily be edited, shared and printed online or at home.

NEW PDI CLASSIFIED ADS BRANCH

Representatives from different national realty associations pledge their advertising support during the opening of the new classified ads branch along Aurora Boulevard in Cubao. Shown placing their real estate ads are (from left) Amelita Sarmiento of Pareb; Domingo de Vera of Rescop and Florentino Dulalia Jr. of PARCS. Looking on are PDI executives (standing, from left) Pepito Olarte, VP for Advertising; Aileen Dacanay, PDI Classified Ads branch manager; Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez; Inquirer chair Marixi R. Prieto, Rene R, Reinoso, SVP for sales and marketing, and account manager Pat Lechadores (seated, extreme right).

Contract Signing Distributorship

HYUNDAI APPOINTS EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR

Hyundai Motor Company appoints Southwest Commercial Vehicles Corporation, a subsidiary of Southwest Maritime Group of Companies, as exclusive distributor of its full line of buses and trucks in the Philippines. Shown signing the commercial vehicles distributorship agreement are (seated from left) Arben Santos, CEO of the Southwest Maritime Group; Vicente Singson, SCVC president; John Kang, general manager of the commercial vehicles export division of HMC; Victorino Basco, chair of Southwest and Robert Chu of HMC.

Pfizer
Life is our life's work.

PFIZER DEWORMING

In line with its commitment to the community, Pfizer recently conducted a series of deworming activities for Filipino children. The Pfizer Philanthropy Committee gave free Pyrantel Pamoate (Combantrin) doses to children of San Jose Elementary School (shown above), Boystown, Marikina and United Way International Philippines, a pre-school for indigent children. Pfizer is a global, research-based pharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and manufactures innovative medicines for humans and animals. It is a union between Pfizer Inc. and Warner-Lambert. This year, Pfizer will invest $5 billion in research and development.

Sharp TV commercial wins 'TV Ad of the Year' award

THE COMMERCIAL for Sharp's Aphrody Flat TV was given the TV Ad of the Year Award by the Creative Guild, an organization composed of the top creative directors of the Philippine advertising industry. Entitled "Belly," the ad was developed by the creative team of Don Sevilla III, Paul Suarez, and Joey Melissa at Sharp's ad agency, Jimenez D'Arcy. It showed the advantages of having a Sharp Aphrody Flat TV (as well as a flat tummy). The piece won over 16 other finalists, and also bagged a special "Breakthrough in Category" award. Previously, Sharp "Belly" received a Certificate of Excellence from the 2000 Asian Advertising Awards given by "Media", the most prestigious advertising publication in Asia. It was the sole Philippine winner for TV.